



PROPOSED

1982 PLAN AMENDMENTS

to the

CALIFORNIA DESERT PLAN

and the

EASTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY MFP

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
California





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California Desert District
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

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Dear Reader:

Last February (1982), we invited you and other interested parties to review the California Desert Plan and submit your comments and recommendations for proposed amendments of the Plan. The response that we received from organizations and individuals as well as from our own staff resulted in the amendment proposals contained in this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

My thanks to those of you who sent in comments and suggestions - I hope that you will continue to help us manage your public lands.

The decision to accept or to reject these proposed amendments will be based on a number of factors including effect on the natural environment, input from the public, and recommendations of the California Desert District Advisory Council.

We are providing a 60-day period for public review. Please be sure to return your comments to this office no later than . Send your comments to the following address:

California Desert District
Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Plan Amendments
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Hillier
District Manager

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Draft Environmental Impact Statement

PROPOSED 1982 AMENDMENTS
TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA PLAN
AND THE
EASTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY MFP

Prepared by
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District

The Bureau of Land Management is conducting its 1982 review of the California Desert Plan and the Eastern San Diego County Management Framework Plan. This Environmental Impact Statement considers the environment consequences of accepting or rejecting each of the 47 proposed amendments which have been accepted for consideration. Amendments fall into one of seven categories, including desert-wide amendments, site-specific vehicle access changes, livestock grazing adjustments, ACEC and special area designation changes, nonwilderness multiple-use class changes, changes in wilderness designation, and amendments to the Eastern San Diego Plan. Under the Bureau's preferred alternative, 35 amendments would be accepted as proposed by the proponent, 2 amendments would be accepted with modifications, and 12 would be rejected. Desert-wide, Class C acreage would change from 2,083,000 to 1,844,650, Class L would change from 5,864,000 to 6,002,180, Class M would change from 3,356,000 to 3,429,420 and Class I would change from 503,000 to 522,610.

Ed Hussey

STATE DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE

For further information contact: Gerald E. Hillier, District Manager
California Desert District
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

SUMMARYPlan Amendments

In accordance with procedures set forth in Chapter 7 of the California Desert Plan and with 43 CFR 1600 (BLM Planning Regulations), the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, has initiated the second amendment review of the plan.

Proposals for amendments were accepted during a three-month period from mid-February to mid-May 1982. Approximately 120 amendments were proposed by the public and by BLM staff for consideration. These amendments were screened by BLM management and the California Desert District Multiple Use Advisory Council to determine which proposals should be considered at this time and which should be deferred, dropped, or could be handled more appropriately by an administrative action. Forty-nine amendments were recommended for consideration:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
Desert-Wide	1	Allow new communications sites in Class L.
	2	Revise Multiple Use Class guidelines for minerals.
	3	Revise motorized vehicle element.
	4	Change water quality guidelines wording.
Vehicle Access	5	Change Panamint Dunes from "closed" to "partially open."
	6	Establish a point-to-point race course, the Barstow-to-Vegas course, from Alvord Road to Sloan, Nevada.
	7	Change Razor Open Area boundaries.
	8	Change designation of the following closed dry lakes: Soda, Silver, Coyote, Superior, and Harper.
Grazing	9	Change Afton Canyon Allotment from ephemeral to ephemeral/perennial.
	10	Expand Afton Canyon Allotment.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
Grazing cont.	11	Change Cronese Lake Allotment from ephemeral to ephemeral/perennial.
	12	Enlarge Granite Mountain Allotment by including Bristol Mountains.
	13	Change Kelso Dunes area from ephemeral to perennial/ephemeral.
	14	Change range suitability criteria.
ACECs/Special Areas	15	Establish new ACEC at Big and Little Sand Springs.
	16	Relocate and rename ACEC 36.
	17	Enlarge Halloran Wash ACEC.
	18	Change boundary of East Mojave Scenic Area.
Multiple Use Class Changes (Non-Wilderness)	19	Rand Mountains. Change from Class M to either Class I or Class L.
	20	Change Planning Unit (P.U.) 32 from L to M.
	21	Change P.U. 34 from L to M.
	22	Change all or portions of P.U. 38 from L to M.
	23	Change P.U. 36 from L to M.
	24	Change Round Mountain/Grapevine Canyon area from L to M.
	25	Change Red Cloud Mine area from L to M.
	26	Change Gordon's Well area of Imperial Sand Dunes from L to I.
Changes in Wilderness Designation	27	Change two square miles of WSA 117 (Saline Valley) from suitable Class M to non-suitable near Victor Cons mine.
	28	Change two square miles of WSA 150 (Nopah Range) from suitable to non-suitable Class M near Shaw mine.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
	29	Change portion of WSA 150 (Nopah Range) in Chicago Valley/Resting Springs Range area from suitable to non-suitable, Class L.
	30	Change western portion of WSA 271 (Woods Mountain) from non-suitable to suitable.
	31	Change Section 35, T. 11 N., R. 12 E., from C to M.
	32	Change north and west portions of WSA 250 (Kelso Dunes) from Class C to L.
	34	Change WSA 217 (Bighorn Mountains) east of Rattlesnake Canyon from suitable to non-suitable, Class L.
	36	Change Black Mountain portion of WSA 217 (Bighorn Mtns) from non-suitable to suitable.
	37	Change WSA 218 (Morongo) from non-suitable to suitable.
	39	Change portions of WSA 145 (Resting Springs Range) from suitable to non-suitable: 10 square miles north and west of Shadow Mtn. to Class L, 20 square miles north of Baxter Mine to Class M and 10 square miles southwest of Baxter Mine to Class L.
	41	Change 45 square miles of WSA 157 (Little Lake Canyon) from suitable to non-suitable, Class L.
	42	Change WSA 123 (Hunter Mountain) from suitable to non-suitable, Class L; designate as an ACEC.
Eastern San Diego County Plan	43 to 46	Adjust boundaries of WSA CA-060-024 (Sawtooth)
Other	47	Change upper part of Pleasant Canyon from Class L to M.
	48	Change Olancha area from M to I.
	49	Allow stopping, parking, and camping within 300 feet of roads rather than 100 feet.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
	50	Increase size of Arroyo Salada open area.
	51	Change WSA 305 (Sheephole Mountains) from suitable to non-suitable, Class L.
	52	Change portion of WSA 148 (Greenwater Valley) from suitable to non-suitable, Class L.
	53	Change procedures for dealing with wilderness recommended as suitable, but rejected by Congress.

Environmental Consequences

Impacts have been assessed for both accepting and rejecting each amendment, as well as impacts resulting from acceptance of alternatives to several of the amendments. Table S-1 summarizes those impacts.

TABLE S-1

CANDIDATE AMENDMENTS --- SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

X = POSITIVE IMPACT

--- = NEGATIVE IMPACT

Amendment No.	Amendment	RESOURCES								USES			
		Soil - Air - Water	Vegetation	Wildlife	Horses/Burros	Cultural	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Grazing	Recreation	Lands	Energy/Minerals
1.	Communication Sites											X	
2.	G-EM Guidelines												X
3.	Motorized Vehicle Element										X		
4.	Water Quality												
5.	Panamint Dunes			-		-		-			X		
6.	Barstow/Vegas Race Course			-		-					X		
7.	Race Open Area												
	Alternative A			-		-			-		X		
	Alternative B			-		-			-				
	Alternative C	-		X		X			X		-		
8.	Dry Lakes												
9.	Afton Cyn Allotment			-		-				X			
10.	Afton Cyn Allotment			-		-				X			
11.	Cronese Lake Allotment			-		-				X			
12.	Granite Mtn Allotment												
	Alternative A			-		-				X			
	Alternative B			-		-							
13.	Kelso Dunes Area - Grazing									X			
14.	Range Suitability Criteria												
15.	New ACEC (Big Sand Spg)		X	X		X							
16.	ACEC 36 - relocate/rename		X										
17.	ACEC 29 - Halloran Wash												
18.	East Mojave Scenic Area								-				
19.	Rand Mtn Area												
	Alternative A			-		-			-				
	Alternative B			X		X					-		
20.	Planning Unit 32												
	Alternative A			-		-							
	Alternative B			-		-							

TABLE S-1 (CONTINUED)

Amendment No.	Amendment	RESOURCES										USES			
		Soil - Air - Water	Vegetation	Wildlife	Horses/ Burros	Cultural	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Grazing	Recreation	Lands	Energy/ Minerals		
21.	Planning Unit 34														
	Alternative A			—		—				—					
	Alternative B										X				
22	Planning Unit 38														
	Alternative A			—		—					X				
	Alternative B			—		—									
23.	Planning Unit 36														
	Alternative A			—		—									
	Alternative B			—		—									
	Alternative C			—		—									
24.	Round Mtn/Grapevine Cyn														
25.	Red Cloud Mine			—		—									
26.	Imperial Sand Dunes														
27.	WSA 117 (Eureka Valley)														
28.	WSA 150 (Shaw Mine)			—		—							X		
29.	WSA 150 (Chicago Valley)			—		—							X		
30.	WSA 127 (Woods Mtn)			X		X		—	X				—		
31.	WSA 250 Section 35, T11N, R12E												X		
32.	WSA 250 (Kelso Dunes)			—		—			X						
34.	WSA 217 (Bighorn Mtns)			—		—									
36.	WSA 217 (Black Mtn)		—	X		X		X		X			—		
37.	WSA 218 (Morongo)			X		X		X							
39.	WSA 145 (Baxter Mine)			—		—		—					X		
41.	WSA 157 (Little Lake Cyn)		—	—		—		—							
42.	WSA 123 (Hunter Mtn)			—		—		—		—			X		
43.	Sawtooth WSA - Delete area CA-060-024C												X		
44.	Sawtooth WSA - Cherry-stems														
45.	Sawtooth WSA - NE boundary										X				
46.	Sawtooth WSA - Portrero Area														

TABLE S-1 (CONTINUED)

Amendment No.	Amendment	RESOURCES								USES			
		Soil - Air - Water	Vegetation	Wildlife	Horses/ Burros	Cultural	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Grazing	Recreation	Lands	Energy/ Minerals
47.	Pleasant Cyn			—		—		—					
48.	Olancho Area					—		—					
49.	Roadside Camping	—									X		
50.	Arroyo Salada Open Area												
51.	WSA 305 (Sheephole Mtn)												
	Alternative A			—				—					
	Alternative B			—				—					
52.	WSA 148 (Greenwater Valley)												
	Alternative A			—		—		—					X
	Alternative B			—		—		—					X
53.	Non - enacted WSAa												

Selection of Preferred Alternative

Based in part upon the amendment-specific impacts, a preferred alternative was selected, either to accept, reject, or accept an alternative version of each amendment. This choice does not represent a final decision, but simply indicates a preliminary recommendation to be presented in the draft EIS for public review and comment. The cumulative impacts of this preferred alternative are presented in Table S-2 below:

Table S-2
SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>New Percent Of Desert</u>
<u>Multiple Use Class (Desert)</u>					
C	Acres	2,083,000	1,844,650	-11%	15.3%
L	Acres	5,864,000	6,002,180	+2%	49.5%
M	Acres	3,356,000	3,429,420	+2%	28.3%
I	Acres	503,000	522,610	+4%	4.3%
Unclassified	Acres	314,000	314,000	N/A	2.6%
<u>Multiple-Use Class (East San Diego)</u>					
C	Acres	41,776	35,856	-14%	36.3%
L	Acres	42,510	48,430	+14%	49.0%
M	Acres	14,616	14,616	0%	14.8%
<u>Cultural Resources and Native American Values</u>					
Areas Receiving Greater Protection					
Halloran Wash	Acres	0	1,130	N/A	
Areas Which May Suffer Significant Adverse Impacts					
Crucero/Mesquite Hills ACEC	Acres	0	1,550	N/A	
Cronese Lake ACEC	Acres	0	2,000	N/A	
Juniper Flats ACEC	Acres	0	3,107	N/A	
Total	Acres	0	6,657	N/A	

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Very High Sensitivity Areas Affected				
Closed to Open	Acres	0	2,973	N/A
Class C to Class L	Acres	0	8,278	N/A
Class C to Class M	Acres	0	0	N/A
Class L to Class M	Acres	0	19,346	N/A
<u>Wildlife</u>				
ACECs Added	Acres	0	260	N/A
HMPs Affected ¹				
I	Number	0	1	N/A
	Acres	0	13,900	N/A
M	Number	0	3	N/A
	Acres	0	43,900	N/A
L	Number	4	1	N/A
	Acres	57,800	5,900	N/A
C	Number	1	0	N/A
	Acres	5,900	0	N/A
Bighorn Sheep Habitat ^{2,3} Affected				
I	Acres	0	0	N/A
M	Acres	0	4,000	N/A
L	Acres	4,000	29,500	N/A
C	Acres	29,500	0	N/A
Desert Tortoise Habitat ^{2,4} Affected				
I	Acres	0	0	N/A
M	Acres	0	51,500	N/A
L	Acres	51,500	51,000	N/A
C	Acres	51,000	0	N/A
Mohave Ground Squirrel ^{2,5} Crucial Habitat Affected				
I		0	0	N/A
M		0	4,100	N/A
L		4,100	0	N/A
C		0	0	N/A
<u>Livestock Grazing*</u>				
Ephemeral Allotments	Number	18	16	-11
	Acres	1,610,699	1,517,879	-6

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Ephemeral/Perennial Allotments	Number	63	65	+3
Perennial Allotments	Acres	2,247,906	2,667,731	+16
	Number	13	13	0
	Acres	749,668	749,668	0
<u>Recreation</u>				
Open Sand Dunes	Number	4	5	+75
Dry Lakes - Open	Number	7	7	0
- Partially	Number	3	7	+133
<u>Motorized Vehicle Access</u>				
Open	Acres	503,000	523,000	+4
	% of CDCA			
Limited	Acres	9,220,000	9,418,000	+5
	% of CDCA			
Closed	Acres	2,089,000	1,864,000	-10
	% of CDCA			
Point-to-point race courses/corridors	Number	3	4	53

¹ Acreage figures represent only those acreages not changed if the "preferred alternative" is rejected.

² Acreage figures represent only those acreages not changed if the "preferred alternative" is rejected.

³ Includes all permanent, seasonal, and transient bighorn sheep range.

⁴ Includes all tortoise habitat estimated at more than 20 tortoises per square mile.

⁵ Crucial habitat is that portion of the range selected in the Desert Plan for specific management of the species.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 7 of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (1980) and with 43 CFR 1600 (BLM planning regulations), the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, has initiated the second amendment review of the plan.

Proposals for amendments were accepted during a three-month period from mid-February to mid-May 1982. Approximately 120 amendments were proposed by the public and by BLM staff for consideration during the review. The proposed amendments were then screened by BLM management and by the California Desert District Multiple-Use Advisory Council to determine which ones met the following criteria:

1. Is the supporting detail sufficient and the problem clearly stated so that the request can be considered?
2. Does the information represent a formal change in State or local government or other agency plans?
3. Does the information represent a change in legal or regulatory mandate?

Fifty-seven proposals met the criteria and were incorporated into the forty-nine amendments which have been analyzed by this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Fourteen proposals met the criteria but have been deferred for consideration at a later date for reasons identified in Appendix D. Seventeen proposals will be handled by methods more appropriate than the amendment procedure, such as the vehicle route designation process, ACEC management plans, wildlife habitat management plans, wilderness plans, or other actions listed in Appendix D. Twenty proposals were rejected for consideration at this time because of reasons detailed in Appendix D.

The final decision concerning whether or not to approve each amendment will be made 45 days following the publication of the Final EIS. The decision will be based upon several factors, including the findings of this EIS and public response received during the review periods of the Draft and Final EIS. That decision is presently expected in early March, 1983.

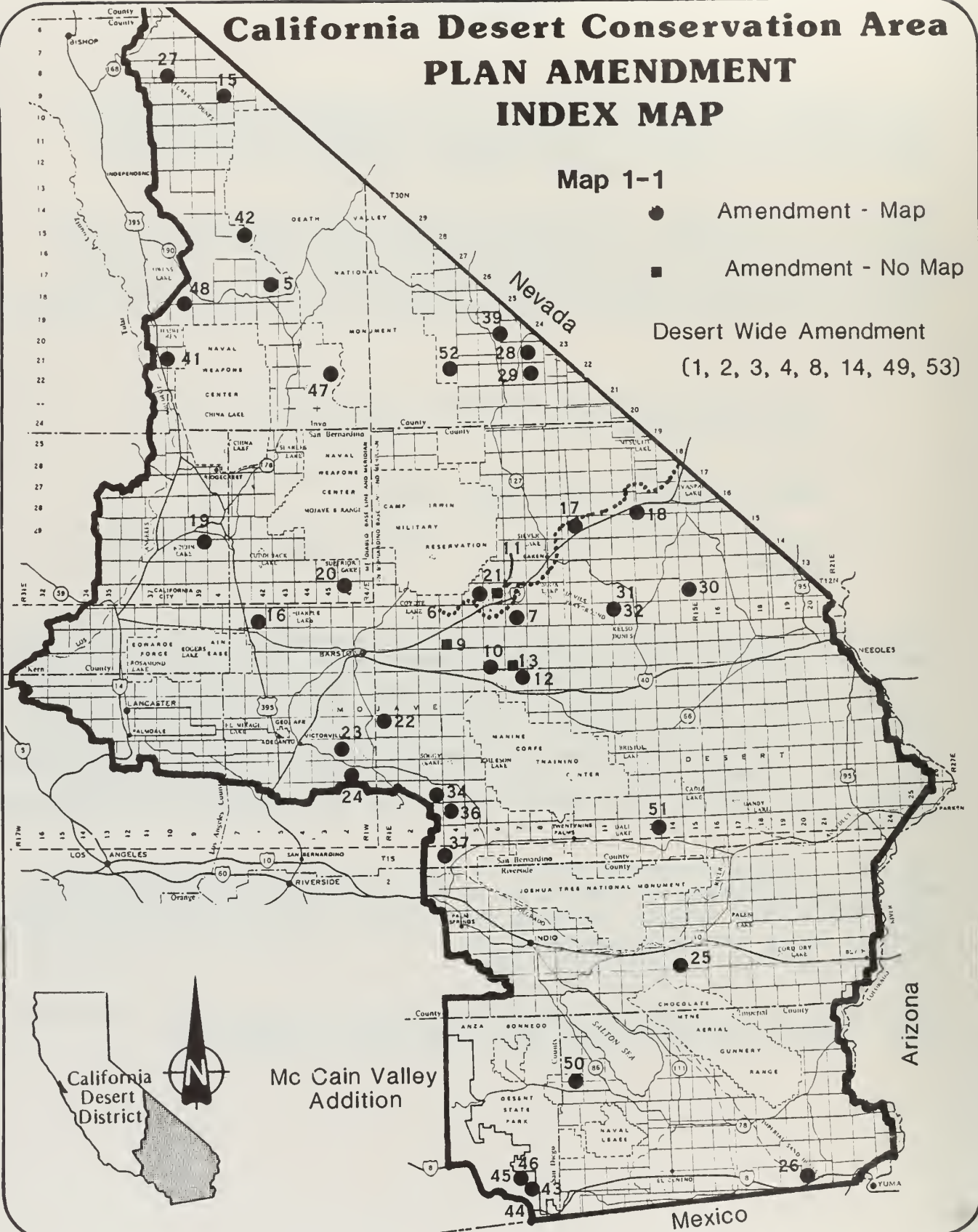
The majority of the amendments address site-specific issues. Map 1-1 indicates their regional location; specific maps can be found in Appendix A.

California Desert Conservation Area PLAN AMENDMENT INDEX MAP

Map 1-1

- Amendment - Map
- Amendment - No Map

Desert Wide Amendment
(1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 14, 49, 53)



CHAPTER 2

AMENDMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES

CHAPTER II

AMENDMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Forty-seven proposed amendments to the California Desert Plan have been accepted for consideration. Each amendment has been considered individually for either acceptance or rejection. The rejection of an amendment represents the "no action" alternative. Additional alternatives have been proposed for several of the amendments which present modified versions of the amendment.

The amendments have been grouped into the following categories:

1. Desert-Wide
2. Site-Specific Vehicle Access
3. Grazing
4. ACECs and Special Areas
5. Multiple-Use Class Changes (Non-Wilderness)
6. Changes in Wilderness Designation
7. Eastern San Diego County Plan
8. Other

Table 2-1 describes each of the proposed amendments and the reasons given by the proponent for the change. Maps of each amendment are located in Appendix A.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
	DESERT-WIDE AMENDMENTS			
1	Change MUC guidelines on communications sites (p. 16). Allow new communications sites in Class L (same as Classes M and I).	At present, in Class L, communication sites are allowed in only a few specified locations, the intent being to identify future communication sites through the entire planning period. This has not been very practical, since only four sites were identified. As a result, more and more requests are being made for new sites, mostly in Classes L and M.	Accept	A more realistic means of dealing with siting these facilities. Original process lacked flexibility to consider changing technology and facility needs by restricting these facilities to four sites.
2	Revise Multiple Use Class Guidelines relating to geology, energy, and mineral resources. See Appendix C for text of revised guidelines.	Changes required due to modifications of Bureau 3809 regulations.	Accept	Original guidelines do not conform to new regulations.
3	Revise Motorized Vehicle Element of the Plan. See Appendix C. All references to route approval shall be interpreted consistent with the amendment language.	Changes required in response to management experience since completion of Desert Plan.	Accept	New element developed in response to experience gained by route designation process.
4	Change Water Quality Guidelines. Under Classes L, M and I, one of the following two statements should replace the words "minimize degradation": Alternative A: "To provide for the protection and enhancement of all surface and groundwater resources." Alternative B: "....of surface and groundwater resources where appropriate."	Water quality and quantity in the California desert are limiting factors which influence survival of desert wildlife and habitat. A policy of "minimal degradation" of any water resources is unacceptable.	Accept Altern B	There may occasionally be some projects where, in order to meet a specific goal (i.e., wildlife enhancement), groundwater quality may not be able to be maintained or enhanced. However, most actions would be reviewed by the Colorado River and the South Lahontan Water Quality Control Boards. BLM coordination with Fish and Game would continue.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
5	<p><u>SITE-SPECIFIC VEHICLE ACCESS</u></p> <p>Change designation of the Panamint Dunes from closed to partially open to allow limited dune buggy use. Develop a management plan to protect sensitive resources.</p>	<p>Inyo County has limited opportunities for this type of recreation use. Use of the Panamint Dunes would provide an alternative to prevent illegal use of the Eureka Dunes.</p>	<p>Accept, with Modification</p>	<p>There is no class "part open." To accept this recommendation requires an open/close decision. Furthermore, open/close makes no vehicle type distinction except motorized/nonmotorized. Thus the amendment, for continued consistency with the plan, is: Change an area in the dunes to open. Change the Class C preliminary recommendation on suitability to Class L near the dunes.</p> <p>An existing demand for limited recreational use of the dunes would be met. Use of the dunes would be monitored to assure uses remain light enough that sensitive sources will not be severely impacted.</p> <p>Enforcement could be a problem. At this point, BLM has no enforcement plan to implement if the amendment is adopted. BLM would solicit ideas at the time of implementing. These ideas could include a free-use permit system, cooperative management, and support by a recognized volunteer group.</p>
6	<p>Establish a motorcycle race course running from Alvord Road to Sloan, Nevada, to be called the Barstow-to-Vegas course. See Supplementary Information</p>	<p>There is a great desire on the part of the off-road vehicle community to add this course to the Plan.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Most of the proposed route has already been impacted by past competitive events and present uses. Competitive Barstow-to-Vegas races have been run in the past, and there is a great demand to reinstate this event.</p>

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
7	<p>Razor Open Area. Three alternatives proposed:</p> <p>A. <u>Expand Razor Open Area</u></p> <p>B. <u>Expand Razor Open Area to the east to include part of Devil's Play-ground.</u></p> <p>C. <u>Close Razor Open Area. Change to Class M.</u></p>	<p>The present boundary is not manageable because it splits many of the traditional use areas and it provides an insufficient area for free play and competitive events.</p> <p>Increase opportunities for off-road vehicle play.</p> <p>It is proving difficult to contain ORV use within the boundaries of the area, and considerable spill-over damage is occurring, especially to the fragile archaeological resources south of the Cruzero railroad crossing. There is also increasing traffic between Afton Campground and the open area.</p>	Accept Al. A.	Alternative A establishes an enlarged boundary for the open area which corresponds to actual on-the-ground use in that region and is defined by topographic features. Signing would be required to restrict use to north of the railroad.
8	<p>Change the designation of the following dry lakes from closed to that listed below:</p> <p>Soda Dry Lake - Closed, except for approved routes of travel. On such route would be the Mojave Road and a route to be used for Amendment 6.</p> <p>Silver Dry Lake - Closed, except for approved routes of travel or by permit.</p> <p>Coyote Dry Lake - Closed, except for approved routes of travel.</p> <p>Superior Dry Lake - Limited passage of vehicles across lake; no motorized vehicle free play.</p> <p>Harper Dry Lake - Limited passage of vehicles across lake; no motorized vehicle free play.</p>	<p>These lakes are currently listed as closed, although the intended management is to allow limited vehicle use.</p>	Accept with Modification	<p>These lakes still reserved for land sailing. What is provided is access for vehicles transporting land sailors. No other vehicle use permitted (i.e., motorcycles, ATVs, four-wheel drives).</p> <p>Approved routes would include, for example, an existing graded road across Silver and a tank trail across Coyote. Changes in Superior and Harper are required to support land-sailing activities; this activity was the reason the lakes were originally closed to motorized vehicles.</p>

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
9	GRAZING Change Afton Canyon Allotment from ephemeral to ephemeral/perennial with a carrying capacity of 2795 AUMs adjusted by -699 AUMs for condition class and -37 AUMs for bighorn sheep, leaving an available livestock allocation of 2059 AUMs.	Recent field examinations have shown a good base of perennial grasses in the allotment.	Accept	No increase or decrease in use would occur that would not occur in any case if this were an ephemeral allotment. This is just a bookkeeping change to reflect the actual on-the-ground situation.
10	Extend Afton Canyon Allotment to the east to the proposed Bristol Mountain Allotment.	Recent field examinations have indicated that a good amount of forage exists to the east of the present allotment.	Reject	No arrangement for leasing intermingled private lands has yet been made. The expansion proposal could be reconsidered if this occurs in the future.
11	Change Cronese Lake Allotment from ephemeral to ephemeral/perennial with carrying capacity of 1508 AUMs, all of which would be allocated to livestock.	Recent field examinations show the allotment to have a good base of perennial grasses.	Accept	No increase or decrease in use would occur that would not occur in any ephemeral allotment. This is just a bookkeeping change to reflect the actual on-the-ground situation.
12	Enlarge the Granite Mountains Allotment by adding the area containing the Bristol Mountains. With the addition and extension of pipelines, consider two alternatives: A. <u>Manage as ephemeral/perennial with preference for 2304 AUMs.</u> B. <u>Manage as ephemeral</u>	Desire to increase the size of the present cattle operation.	Accept Alt. A	Recommendation based on suitability and forage studies. Livestock use patterns will be noted to see how much of expansion area actually used. Designating as either ephemeral or ephemeral/perennial will not result in different levels of use; but classifying allotment as ephemeral/perennial would allow operator to obtain financing for range improvements.
13.	<u>Reinstate the Kelso Dunes area from ephemeral to ephemeral/perennial use.</u>	Three perennial grasses are present.	Accept	Short of fencing the entire dunes, enforcement of ephemeral designation impractical.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
14	Remove slope and distance from water criteria from range and suitability calculations.	Criteria is not applicable to California Desert grazing situation.	Accept	Criteria are arbitrary, and don't reflect seasonal variations in livestock use. Other controls already built in (condition, class, rest, and present Desert Plan allocation). Additionally, excluding areas from calculations of carrying capacity due to these criteria carries potential implication that these areas are excluded from the lease, which is not the intent of the Desert Plan.
15	AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACECs) AND SPECIAL AREAS Establish a new ACEC at Big Sand and Little Sand Springs.	These springs provide the only natural water in northern Death Valley. Habitat supports a variety of migratory birds, and bighorn sheep have been known to water here. The Sodaville milk vetch occurs here and is proposed for listing as an endangered specie by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The area is being severely trampled by burros and cattle. The spring mounds at Big Sand Springs are being eroded by livestock and burros. Livestock water will be provided, as it is now, but spring sources and associated lush vegetation will be protected through intensive management. Water for wildlife will be developed.	Accept	Environmental values warrant protection and would benefit from ACEC management.
16	Relocate ACEC 36 from present location to T II N, R 6 W, Section 26, and change name from North Harper Lake to <u>Eriophylum ACEC</u> .	The present location was examined and no plants were found. The new location contains plants. The species is on the California Native Plant Society's rare plant list and is on the FWS March 1 list.	Accept	Environmental values warrant protection, and would benefit from ACEC management.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
17	Enlarge Halloran Wash ACEC to include Halloran Spring and the associated petroglyphs. Change management prescriptions to include those proposed in the Halloran Spring ACEC Management Plan when completed and approved.	The Halloran Spring petroglyphs are close to the road and susceptible to vandalism and theft. The present boundary leaves out some of the most important petroglyphs and prehistoric remains in that area. The change would bring approximately 120 more petroglyphs within the ACEC boundary.	Accept	Environmental values warrants protection and would benefit from ACEC management.
18	Modify the northern boundary of the East Molave Scenic Area to delete area around Clark Mountain.	Current boundary includes MolyCorp's Mountain Pass operation, which supplies 60 percent of the world's rare earth requirements.	Accept	Several proposed amendments were submitted for boundary or class changes in this area. The others have been deferred for future consideration for reasons specified in Appendix D. This amendment addresses two specific concerns: the existing MolyCorp operation and the proposed Cal Coal/Ivanpah power generating site. Acceptance ends conflicts between scenic area designation and large scale development.
19	MULTIPLE USE CLASS CHANGES NON-WILDERNESS Rand Mountains. Two alternatives proposed: A. Change Rand area from Class M to Class I. B. Change Rand/Fremont Valley area from Class M to Class L.	<p>Due to traditional use patterns and the nature of the terrain, this area would be more appropriately managed as Class I. The number of routes of travel in the area precludes management of "existing" routes.</p> <p>This area is highly crucial habitat for desert tortoises. ORV use on the numerous roads and trails is causing damage and losses to tortoises and their habitats. The BLM cannot effectively prevent ORV users from travelling off existing roads and trails, so the network of trails is expanding. Vehicle users kill tortoises and widen existing trails.</p>	Reject	Class M best serves both points of view. Class L is already designated in the adjacent Fremont Valley and the Desert Tortoise Natural Area. Class I use would not provide adequate protection for wildlife habitat since ORV use could and would occur throughout.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
20	<p><u>Change P.U. 32 from Class L to Class M. Two alternatives proposed:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Change all of P.U. 32 currently in Class L to Class M.</u></p> <p>B. <u>Change only area that has been heavily mined from Class L to Class M.</u></p>	<p>This area, which has been heavily impacted by a tremendous amount of past and present mining, was improperly classified as Class L. The area should be redesignated as Class M.</p> <p>See above. This alternative would keep cultural resources areas and Mojave Ground Squirrel HMP under Class L management.</p>	Accept Alt. B	This alternative best resolves resource conflicts.
21	<p><u>Change P.U. 34 from Class L to Class M. Two alternatives proposed:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Change all of P.U. 34 currently in Class L to Class M.</u></p> <p>B. <u>Change only checkerboard area from Class L to Class M.</u></p>	<p>This area has been extensively impacted by past and present mining; numerous motorcycle race courses are located within the region.</p> <p>Remainder of area is less heavily roaded and mined.</p>	Accept Alt. B	This alternative best serves conflicting demands on the area's resources. If Amendment #6 is approved, that race would pass through the checkerboard area.
22	<p><u>Stoddard East Area (P.U. 38). Two alternatives proposed:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Change the Cinnamon Hills area from Class L to Class M.</u></p> <p>B. <u>Change all of Unit 38 presently classified Class L to Class M.</u></p>	<p>The area is a heavy ORV use area. A large amount of ORV-related camping occurs in the southern part of the area by users of the Johnson Valley open area. Existing mining activity occurs in the upper part of the area of proposed change.</p> <p>Large amount of ORV activity is such that it would be more appropriate to manage the entire Stoddard East area as Class M. There is much private land in the area and some mining.</p>	Accept Alt. A	Although there are valuable cultural resources in part of this area, there is existing heavy ORV use. This alternative will change only that portion of the planning unit currently Class L to Class M that is presently receiving heavy ORV use.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
23	<p>Change P.U. 36 from Class L to Class M. Three alternatives proposed:</p> <p>A. <u>Change all of P.U. 36 presently classified Class L to Class M.</u></p> <p>B. <u>Change all of P.U. 36 to Class M except Southwest portion of Granite Mountains.</u></p> <p>C. <u>Change only area north of Granite Mountains to Class M.</u></p>	<p>The area has been, and continues to be, heavily impacted by ORV free play. The designation would be more appropriate as Class M.</p>	Reject	<p>The majority of the unit is an area of rugged topography which is not heavily used by off-road vehicles. Heavy use areas (i.e., Turtle Valley) were changed to Class M in a 1981 amendment. Sensitive resources (i.e, cultural and wildlife) occur in this area.</p>
24	<p><u>Change Round Mountain/Grapevine Canyon area from Class L to Class M.</u></p>	<p>The area is criss-crossed by routes of travel, has many mining claims, and is heavily used by local residents.</p>	Reject	<p>This is a scenic area, with sensitive resources. The needs of the local residents could be met by the route designation process.</p>
25	<p><u>Change Red Cloud Mine area from Class L to Class M.</u></p>	<p>The area has many routes of travel, much mining activity (both past and present) as well as several residents.</p>	Accept	<p>This area is currently receiving significant amounts of use; Class M management could be in greater accordance with the actual on-the-ground situation.</p>
26	<p><u>Change the Gordon's Well area of the Imperial Sand Dunes from Class L to Class I.</u></p>	<p>At the time of Plan development, access across the Coachella Canal was unavailable, making the region manageable as Class L. Later, the Imperial Irrigation District opened the bridge across the canal, allowing the public to use the area. Class L management is not consistent with the existing use in the area.</p>	Accept	<p>The bridge cannot be effectively closed. The area is crowded and if use is curtailed, more users will go to the Gecko campground area or Buttercup Valley. Therefore, safety dictates a need for more than one use area in the dunes. The integrity of this Class L area can be maintained even with acceptance of this amendment.</p>

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
	CHANGES IN WILDERNESS DESIGNATION			
27	<u>Change suitable recommendation of approximately 2 square miles of WSA 117 (Saline Valley) to non-suitable status in the vicinity of the Victor Cons Mine; manage as Class M.</u>	This is not a roadless area, being less than 5,000 acres. Mineral resources are indicated here by the Desert Plan. Potential expansion of talc mining.	Accept	Only two square miles would be required; the manageability and integrity of the wilderness area would not be adversely affected.
28	<u>Change suitable recommendation of 3 square miles of WSA 150 (Nopah Range) near Shaw Mine to non-suitable, Class L.</u>	This portion of the Nopah range has "red" potential for locatable minerals (see Map 12 of the Desert Plan)	Accept	Only 3 square miles of the northern tip of WSA 150 would be involved; the manageability and integrity of the WSA would not be adversely affected.
29	<u>Change recommendation of a portion of WSA 150 (Nopah Range) in Chicago Valley/Resting Springs Range to non-suitable, Class L.</u>	Resting Spring Range has "red" and "blue" potential for locatable minerals (see Map 12 of the Desert Plan)	Accept	Mineral potential, particularly for borates, is good in this area. While it is a rather large area, it lies on the periphery of the WSA, and would not result in an unmanageable wilderness.
30	<u>Recommend the western portion of WSA 271, (Woods Mountain), as suitable for wilderness designation.</u>	This area is an exceptional candidate for wilderness designation. Local residents support such designation. The minerals potential of the WSA is outside of the proposed area, in the Hackberry rather than the Woods Mountains. Most motorized vehicle recreation also occurs in the Hackberries. The area contains outstanding examples of petroglyphs, and is one of the most outstanding prehistoric art sites in eastern California.	Reject	Although there are good wildland values, Class L is sufficient for their protection.
31	<u>Change Section 35, T 11 N, R 12 E, WSA 250, from suitable to non-suitable Class M.</u>	Would allow construction of a millsite next to railroad and utilities and would allow working of low adjacent dunes. The section is a sandy flat dominated by creosote vegetation.	Accept	Impacts of this change on the wilderness area would be insignificant and would in no way affect wilderness manageability.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
32	Change recommendation of portions on the north and west WSA 250 (Kelso Dunes) from suitable to non-suitable, Class L.	The west boundary change would reduce by 5,000 acres the amount of private land located within the suitable portion of the WSA. The northern boundary adjustment would provide for a larger zone of land around the town of Kelso unencumbered by the strict regulations on use associated with wilderness. None of the spectacular dunes are in either of these two areas.	Accept	WSA recommended suitable primarily because of the Kelso Dunes, which are southeast of these parcels. Elimination of mixed-ownership lands would improve wilderness manageability.
33	WSA 265 (New York Mountains) See Appendix D, Amendments Not Considered			
34	Change the part of WSA 217 (Bighorn Mountains) east of Rattlesnake Canyon from suitable to non-suitable, Class L.	New information on existing vehicle routes and mining claims within the WSA make it difficult to manage as wilderness.	Accept	An on-the-ground review revealed more extensive and additional development than previously identified. The manageability of the remaining suitable area would be enhanced, while motorized vehicle access to the eastern portion would be provided.
35.	Change WSA 262 (South Providence Mtns) from suitable to non-suitable, Class L. Deferred for USGS reports - see Appendix D, Amendments Not Considered.			
36	Change Black Mtn portion of WSA 217 (Bighorn Mtns) from non-suitable to suitable, and accept Amendment 34.	Black Mountain has no known mining claims or routes of travel. There are no known resource conflicts.	Reject	Wildland values can be adequately protected as Class L. Acceptance of amendment #34 would leave this area a small, isolated tract if recommended suitable.
37	Change WSA 218 (Morongo) from non-suitable to suitable.	The area has outstanding wilderness qualifications, is close to urban populations, has no land ownership problems, no mining claims, no intrusions, and has public support.	Reject	While many resource values exist, Class L would suffice for their protection. The abutting urban area makes wilderness integrity difficult to maintain.
38	WSA 348 (Chuckwalla Mtns) - See Appendix D, Amendments Not Considered.			

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
39	Change recommendation portions of WSA 145; 20 square miles north of Baxter Mine to non-suitable, Class M; 10 sq. miles near Shadow Mountain to non-suitable, Class L; and 10 sq. miles southwest of Baxter Mine to non-suitable, Class L.	These portions of the Resting Springs Range have "red" and "blue" potential for locatable minerals (see Desert Plan, Map 12).	Accept With Modification	The area possesses medium-to-medium-high potential for metallic minerals, and current access works against maintaining wilderness values. The suitability of the remaining area can be maintained. Presently known mineral values indicate that additional high cost inventory can be saved by changing the recommendations now. The northern half of the area around Baxter mine possesses only log-to-unknown potential and will continue to be Class C.
40	WSA 362 (South Algodones) - See Appendix D, Amendments Not Considered			
41	Change 45 square miles of WSA 157 from suitable to non-suitable.	Conflict between "yellow" zone on Desert Plan map 12 (unqualified potential for locatable mineral resources) and WSA recommendation.	Reject	Mineral values are speculative. This area is to be inventoried by the Geological Survey; the suitability recommendation could be reconsidered better after that survey.
42	Change WSA 123 from suitable to non-suitable; designate as an ACEC.	An ACEC management plan would protect sensitive environmental resources. More intensive mining and cattle operations could occur than under wilderness designation.	Reject	Wilderness values are extremely high. Existing grazing could continue as a "grandfathered" use. Mineral potential varies from low-to low to medium. BLM policy is not to use ACEC designation as a wilderness substitute.
43	EASTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY PLAN Sawtooth WSA. Delete area CA-060-024C and recommend area "C" as non-suitable, Class L. This amendment contingent upon approval of amendment 45.	If amendment 45 is accepted, then area C will overlook Class L non-suitable land and will be difficult to manage for a wilderness experience due to intrusions of sights and sounds of man.	Accept	Accepting Amendment 45 would isolate this parcel from remainder of Sawtooth WSA and increase sights and sounds of man.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
44	Sawtooth WSA, Delete cherry-stemming as indicated on map (Appendix A), and add a small section of cherrystemming as indicated.	The roads to be deleted are not needed, as they are not maintained and do not serve any developments. The roads to be added correct a change in the original inventory in which a cherrystem was incorrectly mapped.	Accept	Wilderness manageability would be enhanced. Amendment addresses actual on-the-ground situation.
45	Sawtooth WSA. The northeast boundary of area CA-060-024B of the suitable portion should be pulled back to correspond to road A on the map (see Appendix A); the deleted area should be managed as Class L.	The area bounded by Canebrake Wash, North Wash, Road A on the site-specific Appendix A map, and Crawford Ranch is a bajada containing some sights and sounds of man, including an old airstrip, a fence line, and maintained roads.	Accept	Area to east of road A more properly managed as Class L due to intrusions.
46	Sawtooth WSA. Add cherrystemming within the Potrero to the Sawtooth WSA, area CA-060-024B as indicated on the map. Pull back boundary of recommended suitable as indicated, and managed as Class L.	Several apiary sites and grazing developments exist that need servicing and maintaining. Access to these sites is necessary. The existing roads to these sites are apparently maintained, but were not identified in the inventory process. Boundary changes would make area more manageable and could allow a motorized access route to be constructed to serve users such as hunters.	Accept	Cherrystemming roads addresses actual on-the-ground situation. Boundary changes would move border away from agricultural area and allow access to be provided.
47	OTHER Change upper part of Pleasant Canyon from Class L to Class M (Planning Unit 25, WSAs 136 and 137A).	The presence of strategic minerals makes the area a very important mining area. A change of Class is needed to allow mineral extraction.	Reject	Acceptance of Amendment 2 would make mineral extraction procedures identical for Class L and Class M. The class change would not enhance mineral extraction. Further classification to be issued in September 1982, regarding mining waste and its non-inclusion under guidelines relating to solid water and power generators, should alleviate problems and misunderstandings associated with mining property development in Class L.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
48	<u>Change Olancha area from Class M to Class I.</u>	Historical use of the area is as an ORV open area. While the area receives relatively little use and impact, it is an important recreational resource for Inyo County residents.	Reject	Present ORV demand is light and can be met under provisions of Class M. If use is allowed off-roads, resources could be lost.
49	<u>Allow stopping, parking and camping within 300 feet of roadway.</u>	The Plan allows only 100 ft. on each side of road for camping, a significant decrease from the compromise reached in 1972 (300 ft. on each side). Rockhounds travel in groups and need an area which allows camping in a circle, not a line.	Accept	100 ft. presently allowed is too restrictive; 1000 ft. was also proposed. Within sensitive areas, such as ACECs, BLM reserves right to specify a narrower camping corridor.
50	<u>Increase the size of the Arroyo Salada open area.</u>	The nature of the terrain in this area and the presence to the current Arroyo Salada open area and the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area make management as other than Class I impractical. Using highways 78 and 86 as boundaries will facilitate management. State plans to acquire the area as an addition to the Ocotillo Wells SVRA make such a change both practical and beneficial.	Reject	Current use levels and nature of use are compatible with Class M. If the State acquires intermingled private land in this area, it would then be an appropriate proponent for a class change or for acquisition.
51	<u>Change WSA 305 (Sheephole Mtns) from Class C to Class L. Consider three alternatives:</u> A. <u>Change entire WSA from Class C to Class L. Designate Sheephole Dry Lake as "open."</u> B. <u>Change only checkerboard ownership area from Class C to Class L (see map in Appendix A).</u>	The northern half has a checkerboard land ownership pattern. Some promising geothermal test drills have been made and some interest shown in locatable minerals. Road access exists to the Dry Lake north of Highway 62.	Accept Alt. A	Much of WSA is in a checkerboard ownership pattern. Geothermal potential exists. Wildland values can be adequately protected by Class L management; a Class C level of protection is not necessary. Use on the dry lake light and very sporadic. No adverse impacts have been identified.

TABLE 2-1
Description of Amendments

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason For Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale for Selection of Preferred Alternative
52	<p>Change portion of WSA 148 (Greenwater Valley) from Class C to Class L. Consider two alternatives:</p> <p>A. Change northern two-thirds of WSA from Class C to Class L (see map in Appendix A).</p> <p>B. Change only northern third from Class C to Class L (see map in Appendix A).</p>	<p>Potential for locatable minerals. WSA is crossed by County Roads, which designation as Class C could close, denying recreational access.</p> <p>Most of mineral potential is in the northern portion of the WSA. Only area from County Roads north would be changed from Class C to Class L.</p>	Accept Alt A	<p>The WSA is crossed by County roads and possesses several dispersed areas at low mineral potential. The remaining suitable area would still be large enough to manage as wilderness.</p>
53.	<p>Change the wording on page 55, column 2, first paragraph, middle of third line, referring to designation of non-enacted wilderness areas, to read: "Areas not approved by Congress would, unless Congress directed specific management in lieu of wilderness, return without designation. They would immediately become part of a Plan amendment proposal and a public planning process would ensue as part of that year's input into the land use decision as well as consideration by the District MUAC. In the interim between Congressional rejection and the District Manager's decision, areas would be managed under the Class "L" guidelines."</p>	<p>The change would require the Bureau of consider the reasons for which Congress rejected the suitable recommendation in its future management of the area. This would result in a second public management decision, rather than an automatic designation.</p>	Accept	<p>Would require a public analysis of alternative future management of the former WSA through the Plan amendment process.</p>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

AMENDMENT THREE:

REVISE MOTOR VEHICLE ELEMENT

The revised Motorized Vehicle Element (Appendix C) resulted from several independent efforts. Three interest groups offered Plan amendments on the route approval process. In the meantime, BLM had completely revised the existing element. After a meeting involving those offering amendments and members of the Multiple-Use Advisory Council, the revision was changed somewhat in an attempt to reflect mutually acceptable amendment language.

In early July, the United States District Court, Central District of California rendered an opinion identified as California Native Plant Society, et al v. James Watt et al. The court declared that the "route selection criteria for Class L areas, as set forth in the motorized vehicle element of the California Desert Plan, are inconsistent with 43 CFR [Sec.] 8342.1 (1981) and, therefore, invalid." The court enjoined the use of criteria other than those in the Regulations and retained jurisdiction.

AMENDMENT SIX:

BARSTOW-TO-VEGAS

Proposal

Designate a motorcycle course running from Alvord Road near Barstow to State-line, Nevada (see map 2-1). An authorized route would be established with definite guidelines for its use. Certain course options would be included so that the course could be varied somewhat from year to year. The first permit would be issued for a race on Thanksgiving weekend, 1983. Portions of the course might also be used for other smaller-scale motorcycle events.

The course in Nevada would vary from year to year. A route would be selected and studied by Nevada BLM in early 1983 for possible use the following Thanksgiving.

A "no action" alternative is discussed in the chapter on Environmental Consequences, and addresses possible impacts associated with trail rides that likely would continue in the absence of a permitted event.

History

The San Gabriel Motorcycle Club began this event on Thanksgiving weekend, 1967, with about 500 entrants. Over the next seven years, the Barstow-to-Vegas Race became the largest, most prestigious motorcycle event in the world, with 3,000 entrants in 1974, the last year a permitted event was run. With that many entrants and perhaps 7,000 spectators and support crews, the race had

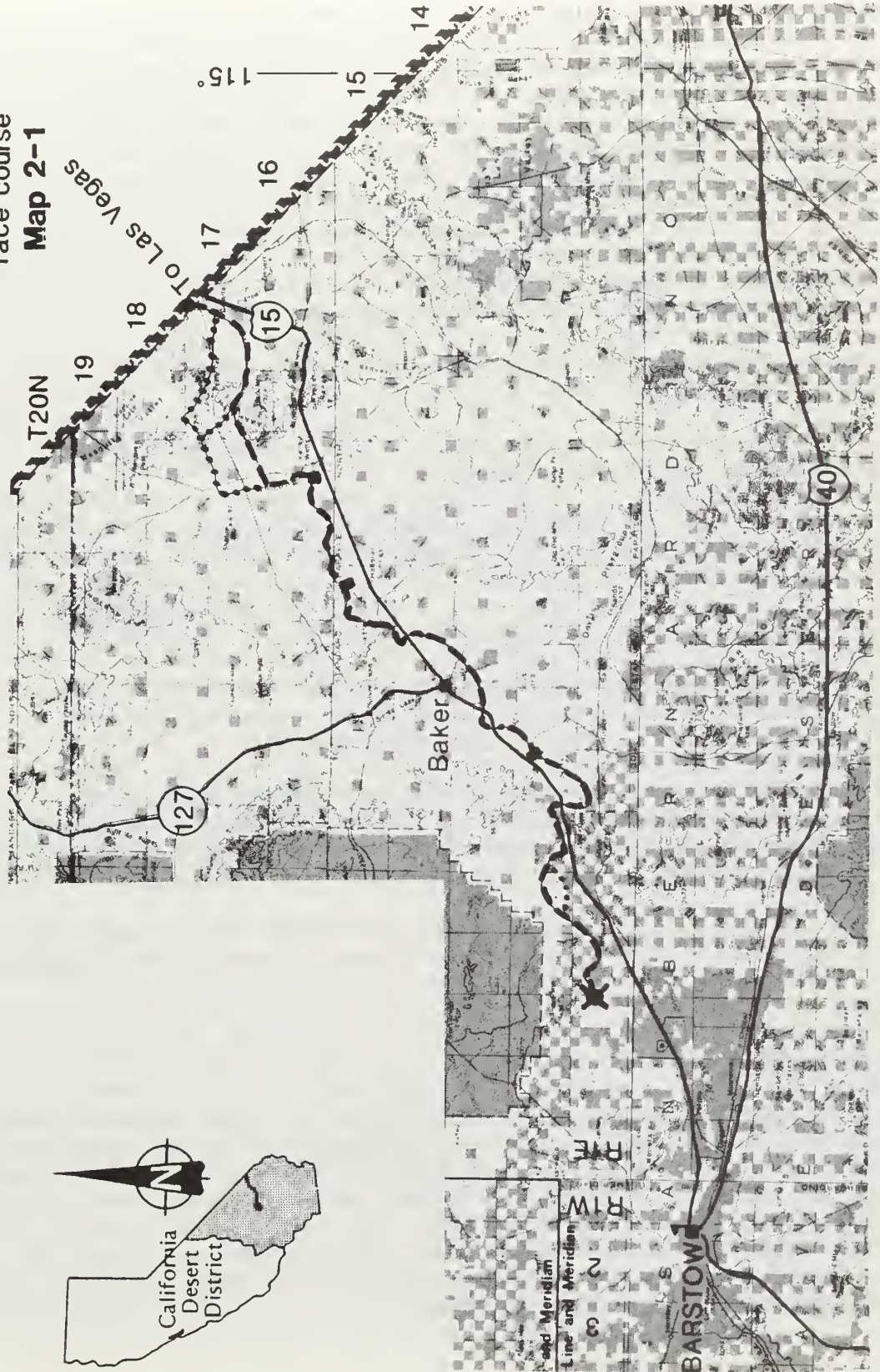
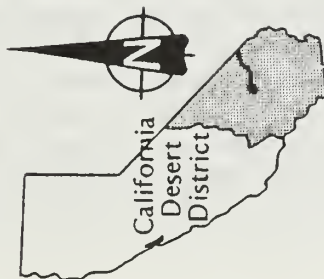
Amendment 6

BARSTOW TO VEGAS Race Course

Establish a point-to-point
race course

Map 2-1

- MAIN ROUTE
- OPTIONAL ROUTE
- PIT AREA
- ✕ START AREA



grown to the point where no controls, no matter how effectively implemented, could keep impacts down to an acceptable minimum. San Gabriel has applied for a permit every year since 1975, but BLM has always denied the request. Since 1975, there has been an annual protest trail ride. Small groups of riders have used various routes to get from the traditional start area to Las Vegas. The San Gabriel Club has tried to establish a Beatty-to-Vegas Race in an attempt to disassociate themselves from this protest ride and offer an alternative to it, but has not been able to attract enough participants to make it worthwhile. In spite of the Club's efforts, Barstow-to-Vegas protest rides have continued. During the protest rides, people have gotten lost, no system was established by the protesters to assist injured riders, private lands have been used without owners' permission, and resources have been damaged.

The Barstow-to-Vegas Race is being reexamined by the BLM at this time because of several factors:

- The Barstow-to-Vegas Race still enjoys considerable support by the motorcycle racing community.
- Since 1974, procedures and rules that allow better controls on these events have been developed by desert racers. For example, AMA has been able in similar recent events to greatly curtail playriding in pits. This was a source of much unnecessary impact during the 1974 race.
- Pitting crews have been consolidated so that one crew pits for several individuals or small clubs, reducing gas consumption and the need for large pit areas.
- Similar events authorized by the Desert Plan, such as the Johnson Valley-to-Parker Race, have been run very well and are compatible with objectives of the Plan to provide protection for desert resources while allowing these uses to occur.
- A maximum of 1200 entrants will be allowed, with no more than 400 in each starting wave, significantly reducing the chance for a recurrence of the problems during the 1974 race.

Race Description

The Barstow-to-Vegas Race is a long distance, point-to-point contest, often referred to as a Hare-Hound race. Participants line up shoulder to shoulder at the start, forming a line approximately one-half mile long (assuming 400 riders per wave). A signal is given, and all racers stop their engines. Another signal starts the race. The "wave" of riders aims for the "bomb," which is simply a target 3 miles away. By the time racers reach the bomb, the faster riders will have moved to the front, allowing a column to form that becomes narrower as the race progresses.

From the bomb to Mile 6 most impact will be to an area approximately 50 feet wide, with some riders straying in an area 150 feet beyond that. Total area of impact would be about 200 feet wide. After Mile 6 and for the duration of the course heavy impact should be limited to an area 15 feet wide with some straying 85 feet beyond that. The total impact area would be 100 feet wide. When the course is on roads, monitoring of similar events shows nearly 100 percent of the participants stay on the road surface. The only exception is an occasional rider with a breakdown, riding off the course for safety reasons.

Three waves of riders, leaving at 20- to 30-minute intervals, give time to clear the start area of breakdowns or injuries, and help prevent bunching up of riders along the course. There are three stops made for gas and minor repairs. Racers will be encouraged to pool their resources by using the same pit vehicle/crew. Crews will be stationed the night before at pits 1 and 2. The pit 1 crew will leapfrog to pit 3.

The first racer to reach the finish area near Las Vegas is the overall winner. In addition, trophies are given for the best time in each class of racer and vehicle. As many as 120 trophies could be given out if 1200 enter the race. No cash prizes or industry-donated prizes are awarded for the Barstow-to Vegas race.

Spectators will be allowed at the start/main camp and the pit areas. With 1200 entrants, an additional 3,500 to 4,000 support crew-family-spectators are expected. Concentrations will be heaviest at the start/main camp, pit 1 and pit 3.

The Barstow-to-Vegas Race is the largest scale event to use the proposed race course. All or portions of the course likely will be considered for other motorcycle events, with the same use guidelines described below applying to them. Other events would probably involve substantially fewer participants and use single starting groups.

Course and Options

BLM worked closely with the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) to determine what course would be considered in this EIS. BLM prepared maps showing wilderness study areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's) and other known environmentally sensitive areas. AMA then developed a course that avoided as many of these areas as possible, and used well established routes, causing insignificant additional impact. Concerns voiced in previous years were considered during the selection process. For example, no consideration was given to any off-road course in Cronese Basin or Clark Mountain ACEC.

Use of private land was kept to a minimum. Where feasible, courses held in the past for races other than Barstow-to-Vegas were incorporated. In general, areas were chosen for the course and the three pits that were previously disturbed and/or were known to be low in environmental concern.

Course Options Considered but not Studied

- Start in Johnson Valley Open Area: rejected because of safety concerns in crossing Santa Fe Railroads's main line, and possible conflicts with management guidelines of wilderness study areas north of I-40.
- Use the proposed right-of-way for the Intermountain Power Project (IPP) transmission lines: rejected because it would provide very little rider appeal, would be difficult to keep racers on one route due to the proximity of planned maintenance roads, and would likely require substantial rerouting after construction began.
- Make exclusive use of existing roads: the exclusive use of the Victorville-McCullough power line road or a small pole line road just north of I-15: rejected because such a course would not be supported by the motorcycle community. The selection of either route by BLM would be equivalent to rejecting the amendment. Rider appeal and safety of the participants must be considered along with environmental issues.
- Use the old Barstow-to-Vegas course and alternates studied in 1974: certain portions of the 1974 course are incorporated in this proposal; other sections were too environmentally sensitive for such use, as shown by the 1975 post-race evaluation.
- Use a route through Afton Canyon: rejected due to safety concerns for use of a maintenance road alongside the Union Pacific Railroad, and wildlife concerns in the Mojave River zone.

After the evaluation of possible routes was completed, a main course and three pit areas were selected for study. Four short course options and an alternative location for pit 2 were also selected to allow a sponsor some variety for annual races. The main course and options studies would constitute the California portion of the course.

In Nevada, the course would vary from year to year. Nevada BLM (Stateline-Esmeralda Resource Area) is currently reviewing public lands for ORV designation. Once decisions are made early in 1983 to open, close or limit areas to off-road vehicle use, a course will be laid out in conformance with those designations.

The main course in California begins on Alvord Road (30 miles east of Barstow on I-15), the traditional start area for the old Barstow-to-Vegas Races. Camping has occurred near the start, and to the south along the Alvord Road.

These areas were chosen for the proposed course because of past impact and low resource sensitivity in the immediate area. Pit 1 is along Rasor Road,

the northern border of the Razor Open Area. This was the site of the 1974 pit 1. Pit 2 is 1.5 miles north of I-15 and 1 mile west of Old Valley Wells. A well graded road would be used by the support vehicles. The 1974 pit 2 was along another dirt road one-fourth mile to the east. Alternate pit 2 is 1.5 miles north of Halloran Spring in a large area used by Caltrans to obtain aggregate for the construction of I-15. Pit 3 is immediately north of Ivanpah Lake near Stateline, Nevada, in a site once used as a trash dump. The original pit 3 was on the lake bed. The course in California is approximately 110 miles long. For a breakdown of type of terrain crossed, see Table 2-1. Detailed maps of the course are in Appendix B.

Future Course Changes

Any permitted race will be monitored for compliance with permit stipulations. Some course/pit changes may be recommended to reduce environmental impact provide a safer course, reduce private land use, or reduce user conflict. In choosing new options, priority will be given to areas previously authorized for other activities, or areas that have been previously disturbed. The changes will be described and analyzed in the EA prepared for each event, giving the public an opportunity for review and comment. If major changes are proposed, BLM will consider the option of assessing such changes through the Desert Plan Amendment process.

Relationship to the Desert Plan

The Barstow-to-Vegas course would join the Johnson Valley-to-Parker, Parker 400 and Stoddard-to-Johnson Valley courses as Plan - designated competitive routes.

Approval of the main course, or options crossing "L" areas for this course, would constitute designation of approved routes (Desert Plan, p. 84). In Class L areas, the course lies in washes, on old roads, or on previously used cross-country courses for all but 1.5 miles. These are all in previously disturbed areas.

Designation Criteria (CFR 8342) Followed

8342.1 Designation criteria.

The authorized officer shall designate all public lands as either open, limited, or closed to off-road vehicles. All designations shall be based on the protection of the resources of the public lands, the promotion of the safety of all the users of the public lands, and the minimization of conflicts among various uses of the public lands; and in accordance with the following criteria:

- (a) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.
- (b) Areas of trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife of significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered species and their habitats.
- (c) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions to populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.
- (d) Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Areas and trails shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

The course was selected in Class L areas that meet these criteria to minimize environmental impacts while providing an appropriate route for ORV events. The previous discussion titled Course and Options demonstrates the care used in route selection. This, coupled with the low-level impacts demonstrates compliance with the regulations cited above.

TABLE 2-1

TERRAIN CROSSED BY THE COURSE (MILES)

Race Section	Roads	Washes	Cross Country Old Courses	Cross Country New Courses
Start Cone			3	
Bomb to Mile 6			3	
Mile 6 to Pit 1	7	16	8	0
Option 1			6 1/2	
Pit 1 to Pit 2	28 1/2	8	11	0
Pit 2 to Pit 3	19	5 1/2	0	1 1/2
Option 2	5	14	5	0
Option 3	2 1/2	3	0	0
Option 4	2 1/2	0	0	0

Start to Pit 1	31 miles
Pit 1 to Pit 2	47 1/2 miles
Pit 2 to Pit 3	26 miles

Pit 1 to Alternative Pit 2	30 miles
Alternative Pit 2 to Pit 3	42 miles

Permit/Use Guidelines

A Special Recreation Use Permit (SRUP) is required for any competitive or commercial event using public land. Since events can begin in California or Nevada, the BLM office in the state of origin will issue the permit. It is expected that the San Gabriel Motorcycle Club (AMA District 37) will be the prime user, but BLM will consider other applications for events using all or portions of the Barstow-to-Vegas course. Multi-year permits for annual events may be considered.

For the period from October 1, 1983 to October 1, 1986, BLM will charge all competitive or commercial users a fee of \$3 per entrant or 5 percent of gross receipts, whichever is greater. After 1986, fees assessed for regular events will be charged.

An environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared for each event. The type of event will be described, the course mapped, and any modification to the course or guidelines in this EIS will be analyzed. Each EA and permit will include a complete list of stipulations. These will generally follow the guidelines below; appropriate BLM specialists and the race sponsor will develop detailed measures to implement the guidelines. To insure that these measures are carried out, a performance bond will be posted with BLM before a permit is issued. Bonds will vary from \$500 to \$5,000 depending on the type of race proposed and number of entrants.

The first two requirements must be met before a permit is issued. The rest will be attached to a permit.

1. The sponsor will obtain permits, files fees or provide notification as follows:

- a. Private Landowners

Permission in writing must be obtained from owners of all lands crossed by the course at least 60 days before the event.

- b. State of California

Lands Commission: written permission will be obtained to cross all state owned land sections.

Caltrans: an encroachment permit will be obtained to cross under I-15.

- c. San Bernardino County

The sponsor will obtain all permits required by County ordinances and file appropriate fees.

d. Rights-of Way

The sponsor will notify all affected R/W holders as least 60 days in advance of any race, and will be required to follow any reasonable additional stipulations to avoid use conflicts and/or restore routes used to the condition existing before the race. Written agreements will be obtained from these parties.

e. Other User Groups

The sponsor will notify all mining claim holders of active properities, grazing leasees and other authorized users at least 60 days in advance of any race, and will be required to follow any reasonable additional stipulations to avoid use conflicts and/or restore routes or improvements to the condition existing before the race. Written agreements will be obtained from these parties.

2. A certificate from an insurer must be presented before a permit can be issued. It must state that insurance is in force, that the insurer will give BLM 30 days notice prior to cancellation or modification of such insurance, and that other affected parties are named as additional insureds to protect against liability.

General

3. The maximum number of participants allowed for any event will be 1200. There will be a limit of 400 for any one starting wave.
4. Prerunning will not be allowed for the Barstow-to-Vegas race. However certain non-sensitive portions of the course may be used for prerunning for small-scale events. (The EA prepared for specific events will authorize and identify these segments).
5. Entry will be by mail only. This requirement may be waived for events involving fewer than 100 entrants.
6. Sponsors will prepare handouts to be sent to all entrants and made available to participants and spectators as they arrive. Maps and rules of conduct will be included to clearly show what activities are or are not allowed, and where.
7. All trash, course markings and other race-related debris will be removed within 15 days after an event. If an event is cancelled, any markings or debris will be removed by the sponsor 15 days after notifying BLM of the cancellation.

Failure to do so will result in a minimum charge of \$400 for contracted clean-up services.

8. All sensitive areas requiring special mitigation will be identified to the sponsor. Before a permit is issued, the sponsor and appropriate BLM specialists will develop site-specific measures to protect resources, promote safety or reduce use conflicts. These measures will be attached to the permit as stipulations and will be included in the EA for the event. Measures/stipulations could include extra flagging, temporary fencing, on-site monitors or special signs. Areas already identified for special attention include Colosseum Gorge, the Mojave Sink, Soda Lake and Crucifixion Thorn Unique Plant Assemblage.

Note: If no funding is available, the sponsor will be required to contract for the collection and curation of artifacts. Such mitigation would be a one-time cost. See Chapter IV, Mitigation for sites requiring action.

9. The sponsor will restore to the satisfaction of BLM's Authorized Officer any lands requiring soil, vegetative or other environmental stabilization as a result of an event.
10. At road crossings, all riders will be required to come to a full stop, then walk their bikes across when the way is clear. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
11. The sponsor will be required to provide emergency medical service with good radio communications for emergency response.
12. The sponsor will discourage participants from collecting or disturbing wildlife, livestock, cultural artifacts and vegetation. There will be no collection of dead and down wood for campfires.
13. The sponsor will appoint marshalls for the main camp, start cone, pits, and finish area. The marshalls will be responsible for enforcing all applicable permit stipulations; the period of responsibility will be specified in the permit.
14. The sponsor will contract for law enforcement services for the main camp and start cone; other areas may be specified in the permit. One officer per 500 spectators/entrants will be required.

Camping Areas

15. a. Camping will be allowed only at the area south of the start (main camp), pit 1, alternate pit 2, pit 3 and finish.

- b. No parking or camping will be allowed within 500 yards of waters.
- c. Camping areas will be clearly marked on the ground and mapped in the handout prepared by the sponsor.
- d. Play riding will not be allowed at the main camp, pit 2, alternate pit 2 or pit 3.
- e. If necessary, speed limits will be posed.

Start Cone

- 16. a. Boundaries will be clearly marked on the ground and mapped in the handout. The marshall will take steps to keep spectators and entrants within the area specified in the permit.

Pitting Areas

- 17. a. Each pit will be limited to 8 acres of impact (approximately 100 X 3,400 feet). The marshall will clearly identify the boundaries of the approved pitting area and take steps to keep spectators/entrants within those bounds.
- b. Traffic patterns will be clearly signed to allow one-way traffic flow.
- c. Spectators will be allowed at each pit. Spectator parking areas will be clearly marked and will be separate from the area for pitting vehicles. (Pit 1 is located along the northern border of an Open Area. It is recognized that use patterns in such areas may make it difficult to clearly separate pitting from other uses).

Note: Item 15 (d) prohibits play riding at all pitting areas, with the exception of pit 1.

Course

- 18. a. The centerline will be marked with flagging, lime, or flagged stakes as appropriate for the terrain.
- b. From the bomb to Mile 6, maximum allowable width is 200 feet, with exceptions noted below.
- c. From Mile 6 to finish, maximum allowable width is 100 feet with the following exceptions:

On roads, the course will be restricted to the road surface (i.e., berm-to-berm). In washes narrower than 100 feet, the course will be restricted to the width of the wash.

- d. Spectators will be discouraged from lining up along the course. If necessary, portions of the course will be closed to non-race related use the evening before and during the race to provide for public safety.
- e. Course marking for the Barstow-to-Vegas Race will be completed at least four weekends before the date to insure adequate time for inspection and any necessary corrections or additions.
- f. Hazards will be clearly marked according to AMA regulations.
- g. Turns will be marked to avoid excess straying.
- h. Checkpoints will be established at areas other than pits to decrease course cutting or to give protection to environmentally sensitive areas.
- i. Gates will be closed after any race unless the sponsor is notified otherwise. The sponsor must coordinate how gates are to be left with BLM and the grazing leasee.

These stipulations may be altered or added to, based on data gathered from monitoring or from new information.

TABLE 2-2

CANDIDATE AMENDMENTS --- SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

X = POSITIVE IMPACT

--- = NEGATIVE IMPACT

Amendment No.	Amendment	RESOURCES								USES			
		Soil - Air - Water	Vegetation	Wildlife	Horses/Burros	Cultural	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Grazing	Recreation	Lands	Energy/Minerals
1.	Communication Sites											X	
2.	G-E-M Guidelines												X
3.	Motorized Vehicle Element										X		
4.	Water Quality												
5.	Panamint Dunes												
6.	Barstow/Vegas Race Course										X		
7.	Ranger Open Area										X		
	Alternative A												
	Alternative B												
	Alternative C												
8.	Dry Lakes												
9.	Afton Cyn Allotment									X			
10.	Afton Cyn Allotment									X			
11.	Cronese Lake Allotment									X			
12.	Granite Mtn Allotment												
	Alternative A									X			
	Alternative B												
13.	Kelso Dunes Area - Grazing									X			
14.	Range Suitability Criteria												
15.	New ACEC (Big Sand Spg)		X	X		X							
16.	ACEC 36 - relocate/rename		X										
17.	ACEC 29 - Halloran Wash					X							
18.	East Mojave Scenic Area												
19.	Rand Mtn Area												
	Alternative A												
	Alternative B												
20.	Planning Unit 32												
	Alternative A												
	Alternative B												

TABLE 2-2 (CONTINUED)

Amendment No.	Amendment	RESOURCES								USES			
		Soil - Air - Water	Vegetation	Wildlife	Horses/ Burros	Cultural	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Grazing	Recreation	Lands	Energy/ Minerals
21.	Planning Unit 34												
	Alternative A			—		—				—			
	Alternative B					—					X		
22	Planning Unit 38												
	Alternative A			—		—				—	X		
	Alternative B			—		—				—			
23.	Planning Unit 36												
	Alternative A			—		—				—			
	Alternative B			—		—				—			
	Alternative C			—		—				—			
24.	Round Mtn/Grapevine Cyn												
25.	Red Cloud Mine					—				—			
26.	Imperial Sand Dunes		—										
27.	WSA 117 (Eureka Valley)												
28.	WSA 150 (Shaw Mine)			—						—			X
29.	WSA 150 (Chicago Valley)			—		—							X
30.	WSA 127 (Woods Mtn)			X				X					—
31.	WSA 250 Section 35, T11N, R12E												X
32.	WSA 250 (Kelso Dunes)			—						X			
34.	WSA 217 (Bighorn Mtns)		—	—									
36.	WSA 217 (Black Mtn)			X				X		X			—
37.	WSA 218 (Morongo)			X				X					
39.	WSA 145 (Baxter Mine)			—		—		—					X
41.	WSA 157 (Little Lake Cyn)			—		—		—					
42.	WSA 123 (Hunter Mtn)			—		—		—					X
43.	Sawtooth WSA - Delete area CA-060-024C									—			
44.	Sawtooth WSA - Cherry- stems												
45.	Sawtooth WSA - NE boundary						—				X		
46.	Sawtooth WSA - Portrero Area												

TABLE 2-2 (CONTINUED)

Amendment No.	Amendment	RESOURCES								USES			
		Soil - Air - Water	Vegetation	Wildlife	Horses/Burros	Cultural	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Grazing	Recreation	Lands	Energy/Minerals
47.	Pleasant Cyn			—		—		—					
48.	Olancha Area					—		—	—				
49.	Roadside Camping	—									X		
50.	Arroyo Salada Open Area												
51.	WSA 305 (Sheephole Mtn)												
	Alternative A			—				—	—				
	Alternative B			—				—	—				
52.	WSA 148 (Greenwater Valley)												
	Alternative A			—		—		—	—				X
	Alternative B			—		—		—	—				X
53.	Non - enacted WSAa												

Table 2-2
SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>New Percent Of Desert</u>
<u>Multiple Use Class (Desert)</u>					
C	Acres	2,083,000	1,844,650	-11%	15.3%
L	Acres	5,864,000	6,002,180	+2%	49.5%
M	Acres	3,356,000	3,429,420	+2%	28.3%
I	Acres	503,000	522,610	+4%	4.3%
Unclassified	Acres	314,000	314,000	N/A	2.6%
<u>Multiple-Use Class (East San Diego)</u>					
C	Acres	41,776	35,856	-14%	36.3%
L	Acres	42,510	48,430	+14%	49.0%
M	Acres	14,616	14,616	0%	14.8%
<u>Cultural Resources and Native American Values</u>					
Areas Receiving Greater Protection					
Halloran Wash	Acres	0	1,130	N/A	
Areas Which May Suffer Significant Adverse Impacts					
Crucero/Mesquite Hills ACEC	Acres	0	1,550	N/A	
Cronese Lake ACEC	Acres	0	2,000	N/A	
Juniper Flats ACEC	Acres	0	3,107	N/A	
Total	Acres	0	6,657	N/A	
Very High Sensitivity Areas Affected					
Closed to Open	Acres	0	2,973	N/A	
Class C to Class L	Acres	0	8,278	N/A	
Class C to Class M	Acres	0	0	N/A	
Class L to Class M	Acres	0	19,346	N/A	
<u>Wildlife</u>					
ACECs Added	Acres	0		260	N/A

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
HMPs Affected ¹				
I	Number	0	1	N/A
	Acres	0	13,900	N/A
M	Number	0	3	N/A
	Acres	0	43,900	N/A
L	Number	4	1	N/A
	Acres	57,800	5,900	N/A
C	Number	1	0	N/A
	Acres	5,900	0	N/A
Bighorn Sheep Habitat ^{2,3} Affected				
I	Acres	0	0	N/A
M	Acres	0	4,000	N/A
L	Acres	4,000	29,500	N/A
C	Acres	29,500	0	N/A
Desert Tortoise Habitat ^{2,4} Affected				
I	Acres	0	0	N/A
M	Acres	0	51,500	N/A
L	Acres	51,500	51,000	N/A
C	Acres	51,000	0	N/A
Mohave Ground Squirrel ^{2,5} Crucial Habiata Affected				
I		0	0	N/A
M		0	4,100	N/A
L		4,100	0	N/A
C		0	0	N/A
<u>Livestock Grazing*</u>				
Ephemeral Allotments	Number	18	16	-11
	Acres	1,610,699	1,517,879	-6
Ephemeral/Perennial Allotments	Number	63	65	+3
	Acres	2,247,906	2,667,731	+16
Perennial Allotments	Number	13	13	0
	Acres	749,668	749,668	0
<u>Recreation</u>				
Open Sand Dunes	Number	4	5	+75
Dry Lakes - Open	Number	7	7	0
- Partially	Number	3	7	+133

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
<u>Motorized Vehicle Access</u>				
Open	Acres	503,000	523,000	+4
	% of CDCA			
Limited	Acres	9,220,000	9,418,000	+5
	% of CDCA			
Closed	Acres	2,089,000	1,864,000	-10
	% of CDCA			
Point-to-point race courses/corridors	Number	3	4	53

¹ Acreage figures represent only those acreages not changed if the "preferred alternative" is rejected.

² Acreage figures represent only those acreages not changed if the "preferred alternative" is rejected.

³ Includes all permanent, seasonal, and transient bighorn sheep range.

⁴ Includes all tortoise habitat estimated at more than 20 tortoises per square mile.

⁵ Crucial habitat is that portion of the range selected in the Desert Plan for specific management of the species.

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Chapter III

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Affected Environment refers specifically to that limited area which may be impacted by the proposed amendment. In some amendments this may be extremely limited; in others it may apply to the entire California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). A few amendments apply to the Eastern San Diego County Area, which is outside the CDCA.

Sources of information have been found which discuss the affected environments adequately for this document:

1. The California Desert Conservation Area Plan, 1980.
2. The Appendices for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan, CDCA, September 1980.
3. Eastern San Diego County Planning Unit, Management Framework Plan, April 1981.
4. Wilderness, December 1979 (outside CDCA).

Abbreviations will be used in identifying references for this section, as follows:

- a. California Desert Conservation Area Plan, 1980: CDCA Plan.
- b. Maps contained in this Plan will be identified by their number. For example, the map on Wild Horse and Burros, Map No. 8: Map #8.
- c. Appendices to the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan for California Desert Conservation Area will be identified by the letter of the volume and the number of the appendix. For example, the appendix Summary of Decisions of Resource Values is Appendix II, Volume A and would be abbreviated as Appendix A II. Other commonly used abbreviations are Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Wilderness Study Area (WSA), Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM), and Multiple-Use Class (MUC).

Next is a brief tabular listing of the amendments to be considered, followed when necessary by a more in-depth discussion of each amendment discussing major resource values which may be affected by the proposal. Finally, a more detailed discussion of cultural values can be found in Appendix F.

Amendment #	Title	References
#1 Desert-wide	Change MUC Guidelines for new communication sites in Class L areas to have the same NEPA requirements as Class M and I areas.	CDCA Plan Table 1 - MUC Guidelines, p. 16 (Communication Sites)

Amendment #	Title	References
#2 Desert-wide	Change MUC Guidelines relating to mineral resources as required by modifications of BLM 3809 regulations (discussion of alternate guidelines).	CDCA Plan Table 1 - MUC Guidelines , pp. 15, 18, 19

Amendment #	Title	References
#3 Desert-wide	Revise Motorized Vehicle Access Element of the Plan. Three variants of plan.	CDCA Plan Guidelines pp. 19 and 20 M-V Access Element, pp. 84, 87-92, Map #10 Appendix C VI

Amendment #	Title	References
#4 Desert-wide	Change Water Quality Guidelines under Class L, M, & I to replace "minimize degradation" with "to provide for the protection and enhancement of all surface and groundwater resources".	CDCA Plan Table 1 - MUC Guidelines, p. 15 (Water Quality)

Amendment #	Title	References
#5 Vehicle Access - Site Specific P.U. 23 Class C	- Panamint Dunes - Change from "Closed" to "Partially Open" to allow limited use by dune buggies. Develop management plan to protect sensitive resources.	CDCA Plan Table 1 - MUC Guidelines p. 19 (M-V Access Transportation); pp. 87-92, Map #10 Appendix C VI

Amendment #	Title	References
#6 Vehicle Access - Site Specific	Barstow-to-Vegas point-to-point motorcycle race corridor (see FY 1891 amendment proposal on same issue)	CDCA Plan pp. 87-92, Map #10 Appendix C VI

Amendment #	Title	References
#7 Vehicle Access - Site Specific P.U. 59 Old Area Class I New Area Class M	Razor Open Area - Two alternatives proposed - a. & b. Expand open area (two alternatives) c. Close Razor Open Area - change to Class M	CDCA Plan pp. 87-92, Map #10 Appendix C VI CDCA Plan pp. 87-92, Map #10 Appendix C VI

Amendment #	Title	References
#8		
Vehicle Access - Site Specific	Change designation from "closed" to that listed below:	
#8 Con't		CDCA Plan
P.U. 59, Class L	1. Soda Dry Lake -Closed- except for approved routes of travel.	pp. 87-92, Map #10 Appendix C VI See Table V-3-1
P.U. 56, Class L	2. Silver Dry Lake - Closed-except for approved routes of travel.	p. 94, p. 158, p. 277 p. 282 and p. 309
P.U. 33, Class M	3. Coyote Dry Lake -Closed- except for approved routes of travel.	
P.U. 32, Class L	4. Superior Dry Lake - Limited passage of vehicles across lake	
P.U. 28, Class L	5. Harper Dry Lake - Limited passage of vehicles across lake	

Amendment #	Title	References
#9		
Grazing P.U. 58 Class M & L	Change Afton Canyon Allotment from ephemeral to ephemeral/ perennial because of new field data.	CDCA Plan Livestock Grazing Element pp. 67-81, Map #9 Appendix F XIII

Amendment #	Title	References
#10		
Grazing P.U. 58 & 63 Class M & L	Expand Afton Canyon Allotment to the east to abut against the proposed Bristol Mountain Allot- ment (Granite Mountains).	CDCA Plan Livestock Grazing Element p. 67-81, Map #9 Appendix F XIII

Amendment #	Title	References
#11		
Grazing P.U. 33 Class L	Change Cronese Lake Allotment from ephemeral to ephemeral/ perennial because of new field data.	CDCA Plan Livestock Grazing Element pp. 67-81, Map #9 Appendix F XIII

Amendment #	Title	References
#12		
Grazing P.U. 62, 63, 64 Class C-Granites Class M&L-Bristol	Enlarge the Granite Mountain Allotment by adding the Bristol Mountains (2 alternatives).	CDCA Plan Livestock Grazing Element pp. 67-81, Map #9 Appendix F XIII

Amendment #	Title	References
#13		
Grazing P.U. 62 Class C & L	Change Kelso Dunes Allotment classification from ephemeral back to ephemeral/perennial.	CDCA Plan Livestock Grazing Element pp. 67-81, Map #9 Appendix F XIII

Amendment #	Title	References
#14		CDCA Plan
Desert-wide Grazing	Remove slope and distance from water from range suitability calculations.	Livestock Grazing Element pp. 67-81, Map #9 Appendix F XIII

Amendment #	Title	References
#15		CDCA Plan
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) & Special Areas - P.U. 8, Class C	Establish a new ACEC at Big Sand Spring and Little Sand Spring.	pp. 123-128, Map #17 Appendix C IV

Amendment #	Title	References
#16		CDCA Plan
ACECs	Northern Harper Lake ACEC	ACEC
P.U. 28 (old)	Relocate ACEC #36 to T 11 N, R 6 W, Sec 26. Change name to	pp. 123-128, Map #17
P.U. 29 (proposed) ACEC # 36	Eriophylum ACEC.	Appendix C IV
Class L		

Amendment #	Title	References
#17		CDCA Plan
ACECs	Enlarge Halloran Wash ACEC to include Halloran Spring and associated petroglyphs.	ACEC pp. 123-128, Map #17 Appendix C IV
P.U. 65		Appendix A II, pp. 295-297
ACEC #29		
Class M		

Amendment #	Title	References
#18		CDCA Plan
East Mojave Nat'l Scenic Area	Modify northern boundary to delete Clark Mountain area and mineralized area south of Interstate 15.	pp. 123-128, Map #17 Appendix C IV, pp. 15, 22, 23, 24, 31
Clark Mtn. ACEC		Appendix A II, pp. 295-300, pp. 316-320, 325-336, pp. 347-371
Mt. Pass ACEC		
New York Mtn ACEC		
Camp Rock Sp ACEC		
Fort Piute ACEC		
Fort Soda ACEC		
P.U.'s 59-62		
P.U.'s 65-72		
Mostly Class L but Others are Present		

Amendment #	Title	References
#19		CDCA Plan
Multiple Use	Rand Mountains - 2 alternatives proposed:	Chapter 2 - MUC
Class Changes	a. Change Rand Area from Class M to Class I	MU Classes Map
Class M (now)		Appendix A, pp. 185-189
Class L (proposed)	b. Change Rand/Fremont Valley from Class M to Class L	Appendix C, pp. 17-18
P.U. 21 & 22		

Amendment #	Title	References
#20	Change P.U. 32(a) from Class L	CDCA Plan
MU Class Change	to Class M because of past and	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
P.U. 32(a) from	present mining impacts.	Appendix A, pp. 231-238
Class L to Class M	ACEC #39 in Class M portion of	Appendix C, pp. 29-30
ACEC #39	P.U. (Two Alternatives).	

Amendment #	Title	References
#21		
MU Class Changes	Change P.U. 34 from Class L to M	CDCA Plan
P.U. 34 from Class	because of past and present	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
L to M (now par-	mining and numerous motorcycle	pp. 239-244
tially Class L,	race courses.	Appendix A
partially Class M		

Amendment #	Title	References
#22	Change P.U. 38 Class L & M	
MU Class Changes	2 alternatives proposed:	
Stoddard East Area	a. Change the Cinnamon Hills area	CDCA Plan
P.U. 38	from Class L to Class M	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
Class L & M	b. Change all of the Class L in	Appendix A, pp. 255-260
	P.U. 38 to Class M.	
	Change because of heavy ORV use	
	and mining uses (3 Alternatives).	

Amendment #	Title	References
#23		CDCA Plan
MU Class Changes	Change P.U. 36 from Class L to	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
P.U. 36 from	Class M because of the large	pp. 246-250
Class L to Class M	amount of ORV use.	Appendix A

Amendment #	Title	References
#24	Change Round Mountain/Grapevine	CDCA Plan
MU Class Changes	Canyon Area from Class L to M.	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
P.U. 37	Many routes of travel and mining	Appendix A, pp. 251-254
ACEC #45	activity.	Appendix C, p. 34

Amendment #	Title	References
#25		CDCA Plan
MU Class Changes	Change Red Cloud Mine area from	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
Portion of P.U. 98	Class L to Class M. Many routes	Appendix A, pp. 457-462
ACEC #59	of travel, much mining activity.	Appendix C, pp. 44-45

Amendment #	Title	References
#26	Change the Gordon's Well area of	
MU Class Changes	the Imperial Sand Dunes from Class	CDCA Plan
Portion of	L to Class I. New access across	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
P.U. 103	the Coachella Canal makes manage-	pp. 483-488
Class L	ment at Class L inconsistent with	Appendix A
	use of the area.	

Amendment #	Title	References
#27		CDCA Plan
Change WSA 117	Change about two square miles of	Wilderness Element
Suitability Recom.	WSA 117 (Eureka Valley) to non-	pp. 53-56, Map #7
P.U. 6	suitable status near Victor Cons	Appendix B, pp. 61-68
Class C	Mine.	

Amendment #	Title	References
#28		
Change WSA 150	Change WSA 150 (Nopah Range) from	CDCA Plan
Suitability Recom.	suitable to non-suitable for about	Wilderness Element
P.U. 48	2 square miles around Shaw Mine	pp 53-56, Map #7
Class C		Appendix B, pp. 189-194

Amendment #	Title	References
#29		CDCA Plan
Change WSA 150	Change portion of WSA 150 in	Wilderness Element
Suitability Recom.	Chicago Valley/Resting Springs	pp. 53-56, Map #7
P.U. 48 & 44	Range to non-suitable Wilderness.	Appendix B, pp. 189-194
Class C	Private land access problems plus	
	potential for locatable minerals.	

Amendment #	Title	References
#30		
Change WSA 27	Change portion of WSA 271 (Woods	CDCA Plan
Suitability Recom.	Mtn) from Class L to Class C.	Wilderness Element
P.U. 71	Low mineral potential, little ORV	pp. 53-56, Map #7
Class L	use, high cultural values.	Appendix B, pp. 477-483

Amendment #	Title	References
#31		CDCA Plan
Change WSA 250	Change Sec. 35, T 11 N, R 12 E in	Wilderness Element
Suitability Recom.	WSA 250 (Kelso Dunes) to allow	pp. 53-56, Map #7
P.U. 62 & 63	for construction of a millsite	Appendix B, pp. 396-401
Class M, L, & C	next to existing RR. There is ex-	
	isting millsite on southside of RR	

Amendment #	Title	References
#32		
Change WSA 250	Change portion on north end of the	CDCA Plan
Suitability Recom.	Kelso Dunes (WSA 250) from Class C	Wilderness Element
P.U. 62	to Class L. Would allow a larger	pp. 53-56, Map #7
Class C	boundary of Wilderness-free land	Appendix B, pp. 396-401
(See Amendment 31)	around town of Kelso and none of	
	the spectacular dunes are in	
	either area. About 5000 acres of	
	private land within the area pro-	
	posed for deletion.	

Amendment #	Title	References
#33		
Change WSA 265	Out - See Appendix D,	
Suitability Recom.	Amendments Not Considered	

Amendment #	Title	References
#34	Change part of WSA 217 (Bighorn Mtn) from suitable to non-suitable	CDCA Plan
Change WSA 217	because new information on existing vehicle routes and mining	Wilderness Element
Suitability Recom.	claims make WSA difficult to manage as Wilderness.	pp. 53-56, Map #7
P.U. 41		Appendix B, pp. 277-281
Class C		

Amendment #	Title	References
#35	Change of WSA 262 (South Providence Mtns) from suitable to non-suitable, Class L. Deferred for USGS reports (see Appendix D).	
Change WSA 262		
Suitability Recom.		

Amendment #	Title	References
#36	Change Black Mountain portion of WSA 217, (Bighorn Mtn) from non-suitable to suitable.	CDCA Plan
Change WSA 217		Wilderness Element
Suitability Recom.		pp. 53-56, Map #7
P.U. 41		Appendix B, pp. 277-281
Class L, C & M		

Amendment #	Title	References
#37	Change WSA 218 (Morongo) from non-suitable to suitable. Has outstanding Wilderness qualifications.	CDCA Plan
Change WSA 218		Wilderness Element
Suitability Recom.		pp. 53-56, Map #7
P.U. 85		Appendix B, pp. 282-285
Class L		

Amendment #	Title	References
#38	Chuckwalla Mountain - See Appendix D, Amendments Not Considered	
Change WSA 348		

Amendment #	Title	References
#39	Delete portion of WSA 145 (20 sq. miles north of Baxter Mine and 10 sq. miles north and west of Shadow Mtn). These portions of Resting Springs WSA have good potential for locatable minerals.	CDCA Plan
Change WSA 145		Wilderness Element
Suitability Recom.		pp. 53-56, Map #7
P.U. 44		Appendix B, pp. 167-171
Class C		

Amendment #	Title	References
#40	Out- See Appendix D, Amendments Not Considered	
Change WSA 362		
Suitability Recom.		

Amendment #	Title	References
#41	Change the southern portion of WSA	CDCA Plan
Change WSA 157	157 from suitable to non-suitable.	Wilderness Element
Suitability Recom.	Conflict between "yellow" zone on	pp. 53-56, Map #7
P.U. 17	Desert Plan Map #12 (unqualified	GEM Element
Class C	potential for locatable minerals)	pp. 95-114, Map 12
	and WSA recommendation.	Appendix B, pp. 210-213

Amendment #	Title	References
#42		
Change WSA 123	Change WSA 123 from suitable to	CDCA Plan 1980
Suitability Recom.	non-suitable (Hunter Mountain).	Wilderness Element
P.U. 12	Designate as an ACEC.	pp. 53-56, Map #7
Class C & L		Appendix B, pp. 97-101

Amendment #	Title	References
#43 - 46	Change boundaries of WSA CA-060-	Eastern San Diego County Plan
Eastern San Diego	024C (Sawtooth) and suitability	Planning Unit Mgmt Framework
County Plan	recommendation from Class C to	Plan April 1981
Change WSA Suita-	Class L in deleted area. Also,	Final Intensive Inventory
bility Recom.	add some cherrystems on existing	Wilderness Dec. 1979 (outside
WSA CA-060-024C	roads.	CDCA) pp. 182-184

Amendment #	Title	References
#47		
Other	Change upper part of Pleasant	CDCA Plan
Change part	Canyon (mining area) from Class L	Wilderness Element
Pleasant Cyn from	to Class M.	pp. 53-56, Map #7
Class L to Class M		pp. 142-147
P.U. 25		Appendix B, pp. 153-156
WSA 136, 137A		

Amendment #	Title	References
#48		
Change MU Class of	Change P.U. 16b (Olancha) from	CDCA Plan
Olancha from Class	Class M to Class I.	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
M to Class I		pp. 165-166
P.U. 16b		Appendix A, pp. 171-172
Class M		

Amendment #	Title	References
#49		
General for CDCA	Allow stopping, parking and	CDCA Plan
Plan, Change ORV	camping within 300 feet of	Chapter 3, p. 88
Regulations	roadway.	"Stopping and Parking"

Amendment #	Title	References
#50		
Enlarge Arroyo	Increase size of Arroyo Salada	CDCA Plan
Salada Open Area	Open Area - Change P.U. 105a	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
P.U. 105a	MU Class from M to I.	Appendix A, pp. 489-492
Class M		

Amendment #	Title	References
#51		CDCA Plan
Change WSA (305)	Change MU class of WSA (305)	Wilderness Element
MUC Class C to	Sheephole/Cadiz from C to L.	pp. 53-56, Map #7
MUC Class L	(Two alternatives)	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
P.U. 79		Appendix B, pp. 539-544
Class C		

Amendment #	Title	References
#52		
Change WSA (148)	Change MUC Class of WSA (148)	CDCA Plan
Greenwater Valley	Greenwater Valley to Class L	Wilderness Element
MUC Class C to	because of conflicts with mineral	pp. 53-56, Map #7
MUC Class L	potential and existing roads.	Chapter 2 - MUC, MUC Map
P.U. 46	2 alternatives "A" and "B".	Appendix B, pp. 177-180
Class C		

Amendment #	Title	References
#53		
Change wording	Change process for designation of	CDCA Plan
CDCA Plan, p. 55,	non-enacted Wilderness areas.	p. 55, column 2
column 2, para. 1		

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

AMENDMENT SIX: BARSTOW-TO-VEGAS

Air

Air Quality along the race course is relatively good in comparison to the air quality of the southwest air basin, both in terms of gaseous components and suspended particulates (BLM 1974).

Soils

The race course was evaluated with aerial photographs, a state-wide general soil map (S.C.S. 1968), and a map of desert landforms (Brenner and Thomas 1978). Al Endo's written notes about soil properties along the 1974 course were also used to evaluate parts of the proposed course.

Most of the soils crossed in each segment shown below are sandy, with surface textures ranging from single grain, loose fine sand to sandy loam. Many of these soils have a high percentage of coarse fragments. Soils in washes are generally sands, soils on playas typically range from loams to clays, and soils on rock land are often shallow.

Start Cone/Camp Area

Surface textures are generally loamy sands and sandy loams. Some soils have a high percentage of coarse fragments.

Bomb to Mile 6

This segment occurs on a previously used cross-country race course. Surface textures generally range from sand to gravelly sandy loam. Many soils have a large percentage of coarse fragments.

Mile 6 to Pit 1

Seven miles are on roads, 16 miles are in sandy washes, and 8 miles are on previously-used cross-country race courses. The surface textures of the cross-country course primarily range from sand to having a high percentage of coarse fragments.

Option 1

Soil on most of this segment has surface textures generally ranging from gravelly sand to gravelly sandy loam with a high percentage of coarse fragments.

Pit 1 to Pit 2

Eight miles of this segment are in sandy washes, 11 miles are on previously-used cross-country race courses, and 28 1/2 miles are on roads. The course crosses about 1.3 miles of playa soils on an existing road.

Alternative Pit 2

This is on the same kind of soils just described, and is in a previously disturbed area.

From Pit 2 to Pit 3

This part of the race course has 19 miles on roads, 5.5 miles in sandy washes, and 1.5 miles on a previously undisturbed cross-country segment. The undisturbed segment occurs on soils which generally range in surface texture from sand to sandy loam. Many of the soils have a large percentage of coarse material.

Option 2

This segment has 5 miles on roads, 14 miles in sandy washes, and 5 miles on previously disturbed cross-country race courses. The cross-country course is on soils with surface textures primarily ranging from sand to sandy loam with a high percentage of coarse fragments in many cases.

Option 3

Three miles are in sandy washes and 2.5 miles are on roads.

Option 4

All 2.5 miles are on roads.

Cultural Resources

Methodology

BLM archaeologists located cultural resources on the race course or within one-half mile of either side of the course using the following methods: 1) a search of existing literature, 2) an examination of the cultural resource site records on file with the Needles and Barstow Resource Area Offices, 3) an on-the-ground reconnaissance of most of the proposed race course, and 4) contact with pertinent Native American Tribal Councils.

Due to time limitations, only a few areas which were judged as highly sensitive were surveyed on foot. These areas were confined to the east and west shorelines of Soda Lake, pit area 3, and an area on the east side of East Cronese Lake where the course underpasses I-15.

Major segments of the course located on existing roads or washes were examined using the "window survey" method conducted from a vehicle. Two BLM archaeologists drove slowly along the course, stopping at points where the potential was high for the presence of cultural resources. This type of survey is considered to be adequate in areas where the course is run on exiting dirt roads.

Contact with Native Americans included a written request for information and comments on this EIS from the Colorado River Indian Tribal Council, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribal Council and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribal Council.

Start Area

The start area was examined for cultural resources prior to the 1974 Barstow-to-Vegas race and again in June, 1982. While the area may contain archaeological materials, the level of previous impacts made a new survey of the area a low priority.

A number of sites (4-SRr-875, 877, 2835, 3178, 3739) were recorded previously around the start and camping area. These sites are primarily lithic scatters and quarry sites. Some temporary camps (4-SBr-853, 883, 893) appear to be located along small playas about two miles west of the start area. A number of small sites (4-SBr-3173, 3180, 3181) were recorded along the power line corridor. These sites (and isolated artifacts) are small lithic scatters and workshops. No attempt was made to reexamine them.

Sources consulted: Stickle (1979); Simpson (1958); Macko, et al (1982); Hall, et al (1981); Backer, et al (1979); and Fowler, et al (1978).

Bomb to Mile 6

This portion of the course was surveyed in 1974 and again in 1982. No cultural resources have been located in this area.

Mile 6 to Pit 1

BV-2 and BV-3 are prehistoric stone tool manufacturing sites (BLM, 1974). Concentrations of sites are located in the East Cronese Lake area and in the mesquite dunes in the Mohave River Basin (Drover, 1979). It appears that all sites are avoided by the route in this area. No new sites were recorded. 4-SBr-2154, located directly on the course, was found intact and the site record updated. 4-SBr-129, recorded in 1960 by J. Smith where the race course crosses I-15, was not relocated during the 1982 reconnaissance.

Option 1

Between Sections 34 and 26 (refer to map) one site, 4-SBr-2161, has been recorded near the race course along a small unnamed dry lake.

Pit Area 1

No archaeological sites were recorded.

Pit 1 to Pit 2

This segment has been surveyed by vehicle from Pit 1 to the Himalya Mine. A foot survey was made along the course in the Soda Lake area, and south of I-15 on the way to Soda Lake (Section 22, map 5).

Three sites, all in the Soda Lake area, are known along this segment. 4-SBr-541 appears to have been totally collected by Glennan in 1974. Only two small flakes of 4-SBr-268 were found; this site was collected in 1950. CA-069-152 was found during this year's survey. It consists of a lithic scatter/tool manufacturing site with an associated metate and hammerstone. Rogers (1929:5) estimated that 274 prehistoric mines are located in the Turquoise Mountains area. No mines were located during the reconnaissance performed for this EIS.

Sources consulted: Amsden (1927); Brainerd (1953); Brooks, Wilson and Brooks (1978); Campbell, et al (1937); Campbell (1937); Davis (1967); Heizer (1965 and 1970); Rogers (1929); Rogers (1966); Tuohy (1969); Warren (1970 and 1973); Warren and Ore (1978); Warren and DeCosta (1964); and Warren, Knack and Warren (1980).

Pit Area 2

Approximately 15 archaeological sites have been recorded in and around Pit 2 (Valley Wells). One of the sites relocated was a rock shelter which contains prehistoric materials. The survey was intuitive in nature and no new sites were recorded. However, it was determined that the area would yield prehistoric cultural material if a systematic survey were performed.

Alternate Pit 2

No cultural resource sites have ever been recorded here. Vehicles would use a paved road passing by the Halloran Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to get to the pitting area.

Pit 2 to Pit 3

The Clark Mountains are the location of a large mining district which has been

identified for possible inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Colosseum Gorge and the Green's Well area contains approximately 20 recorded archaeological or historic sites adjacent to the course. These sites include the townsite of Ivanpah and numerous prehistoric agave roasting pits. These roasting pits were discovered by Jim Benton in 1975. Others have been recorded by Musser (1982) and Kroesen (1980). The University of California, Riverside, is presently involved in excavation and analysis of these roasting pits (Kroesen, 1981).

According to data collected during the Desert Plan inventory, the Clark Mountains area is particularly important to both the Chemehuevi and Mohave Indians. The area was used up into historic times and includes both temporary and permanent campsites. Bighorn sheep and deer hunting areas are distributed throughout the eastern central area of the Clark Mountains. Aboriginal trails bisect the western edge of Ivanpah Lake and the central area of Shadow Valley. These trails have had continual use through the historic times. Areas near the race course within the Clark Mountain area have been mentioned in Mojave Chemehuevi myth, and burials appear in association with many of the occupation sites. The Clark Mountain Range has ritual significance for both the Chemehuevi and Mojave Indians. Clark Mountain Peak has mythic association in numerous Mojave narratives.

Ivanpah Lake is the location of a district of archaeological sites which have been documented for the National Register of Historic Places (Musser, 1981). The Keeper of the National Register has determined that the shoreline archaeological sites south of I-15 are eligible for inclusion in the Register. No sites have been recorded on the north end of the lake near Stateline previous to this survey. The area between the shoreline and the race course was surveyed on foot. A new site (CA-069-153) was found, consisting of a large lithic scatter.

Option 2

Four sites, 4-SBr-906, 906A, 906B and 906C, were recorded as agave roasting pits. These pits were not relocated during the 1982 reconnaissance. One previously unrecorded site on this segment is CA-069-151, consisting of two agave roasting pits, one of which has been bisected and disturbed by the construction of a dirt road through the area.

Options 3,4

No sites have been recorded along either option.

Pit Area 3

No sites were recorded. Pit 3 is located on an abandoned trash dump recently covered over, and is heavily disturbed.

Recreation

Recreation use along the proposed course is scattered. The majority of use takes place in Afton Canyon, Rasor Open Area, and Clark Mountain.

Afton Canyon receives approximately 25,000 VUDs each year (A Visitor Use Day is 12 visitor hours which may be aggregated continuously, intermittently or simultaneously by one or more persons. Rasor Open Area is experiencing increasing popularity as an ORV free play/camping area (8,000 VUDs). Competitive events in the Open Area have been minimal. Approximately two events per year can be expected with 100-120 participants. Distance from the Los Angeles basin (about 200 miles) accounts for this area's low competitive use.

East of Baker, recreation opportunities are scattered. Sightseeing, camping, rockhounding, hiking and hunting activities occur infrequently between Halloran Spring and Stateline. Clark Mountain, a predominant landmark in this area, offers a full spectrum of recreational opportunity.

Social and Economic Factors

The proposed action would take place in San Bernardino County which has a population of approximately 834,000 people. Most of these residents live in the western portion of the county which adjoins the heavily populated Los Angeles Basin. The nearest incorporated city to the race course is Barstow, 30 miles west of the start area. Barstow's population is about 18,500. The population of other settlements and towns along the proposed course is:

<u>Settlement</u>	<u>Population</u>
Baker	600
Halloran Springs	20
Valley Wells	30
Mountain Pass	250
Bordertown (Stateline)	50

Stateline's "Whiskey Petes" is a popular tourist stop/casino and draws major crowds traveling between Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

Active mines are established in the Turquoise Mountain and Clark Mountain areas. The course in places follows routes used for access to those mine sites. Grazing allotments are located over most of the course. Improvements are located a few miles southwest of Baker, in the vicinity of pit 2 near Valley Wells, in Shadow Valley, and in the Clark Mountain area (Greens Well and Ivanpah).

Vegetation

Data relevant to the proposed race route was gathered by conducting a literature

review and a file search. Sources examined included: inventories and lists of sensitive plants (F & WS, 1980; C.N.P.S, 1980); the 1974 Barstow-to-Vegas EIS and 1975 Evacuation Report; California Desert Plan, including relevant appendices; and various technical manuals and texts. An assessment of potential levels of adverse effects of this proposed event to vegetation resources was also undertaken through a literature search.

Using information obtained from the literature review, areas along the proposed race course which had the highest potential for conflict were identified. The areas field checked were: 1) camp, start, and pit areas, where concentrated use would occur; 2) portions of the course where prior races had not been run; and 3) portions of the proposed race course that contain sensitive plants, unusual plant assemblages and other sensitive plant associations. Results of field surveys and information obtained through literature review were then incorporated into this document.

Habitat Types

Twelve major habitat types have been identified along the proposed race course. Habitat types were delineated based on field studies, available literature and personal knowledge. A list of habitat types in each course section can be found in Table 3-1.

Officially Listed and Sensitive Plants

No officially listed plant species occur along the proposed race course. Three Federal Candidate plant species occur directly on or in the vicinity of the proposed race course (see Map 3-1):

1. Agave utahensis var. nevadensis. Clark Mountain agave. Status: Federal Candidate (FWS, 1980). Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, main course and option 2; restricted to limestone deposits in the Clark Mountains.
2. Arctomecon merriamii. Bear Poppy. Status: Federal Candidate (FWS, 1980). Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, option 2; restricted to gypsum rich soils in the Clark Mountains.
3. Forsellesia pungens var. glabra. Low greasebush. Status: Federal Candidate (FWS, 1980). Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, main course restricted to limestone cliffs in the Clark Mountains.

In addition, five plant species listed by C.N.P.S. as rare in California, but common elsewhere (List 4) occur directly on or in the vicinity of the proposed race course:

1. Androstephium breviflorum. Small-flowered androstephium. Status: List 4 (C.N.P.S., 1980). Location: Mile 6 to Pit 1;

Amendment 6

BARSTOW TO VEGAS

Race Course

Establish a point-to-point
race course

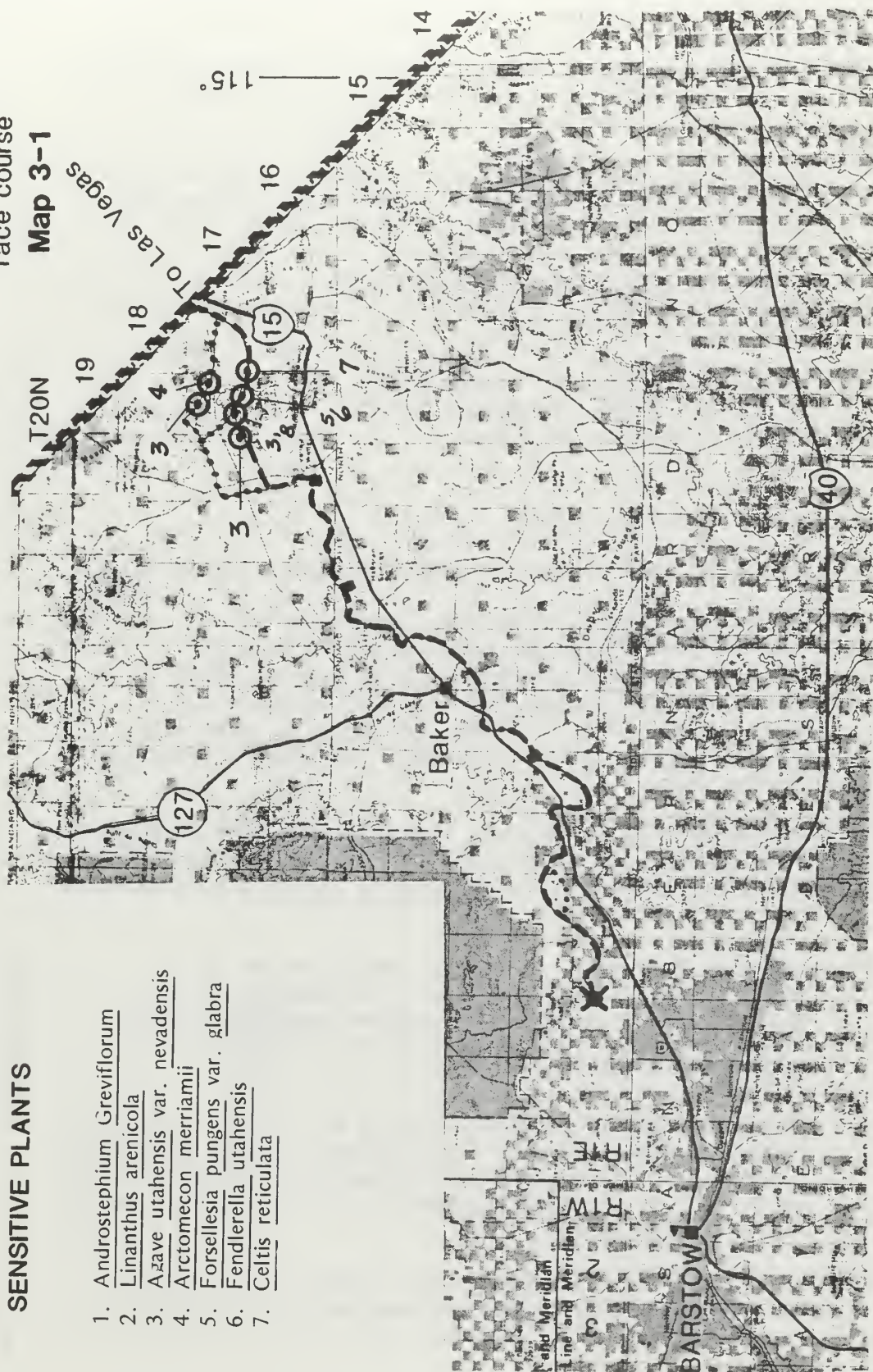
Map 3-1

VEGETATION RESOURCES

- MAIN ROUTE
- OPTIONAL ROUTE
- PIT AREA
- ✕ START AREA

SENSITIVE PLANTS

1. Androstaphyllum Greviflorum
2. Linanthus arenicola
3. Azave utahensis var. nevadensis
4. Arctomecon merriamii
5. Forsellesia pungens var. glabra
6. Fendlerella utahensis
7. Celtis reticulata



south of east Cronese Lake, adjacent to Interstate 15.

2. Celtis reticulata. Desert hackberry. Status: List 4 (C.N.P.S., 1980). Location: main course between Pit 2 and 3; restricted to seeps and springs.
3. Fendlerella utahensis. Yerba desierto. Status: List 4 (C.N.P.S., 1980). Location: main course between Pit 2 and 3; restricted to limestone cliffs in the Clark Mtns.
4. Linanthus arenicola. Sand Linanthus. Status: List 4 (C.N.P.S., 1980). Location: 1 1/2 miles north of Pit 1, adjacent to Interstate 15.
5. Muhlenbergia arsenei. Tough muhly. Status: List 4 (C.N.P.S., 1980). Location: Option 3; restricted to limestone slopes and ridges.

Unusual Plant Assemblages (UPAs)

The following UPAs occur along the proposed course (see Map 3-2):

1. Crucifixion Thorn. Location: Mile 6 to Pit 1. Description: This UPA consists of 20-25 small hummocks of Castela emoryi located several miles north of Afton Canyon, which is well outside the normal range of the species. This small assemblage is the northern most of the seven populations reported in the CDCA.
2. Mojave Sink Desert Willow. Location: Mile 6 to Pit 1. Description: This UPA consists of an unusually large and nearly pure stand of Chilopsis linearis located south of East Cronese Lake.
3. Mesquite Thickets. Location: Mile 6 to Pit 2. Description: This assemblage is infrequent in the desert and has unusually high cover, which provides a very important refuge and habitat for numerous species of wildlife.
4. Shadscale Scrub. Location: Pit 2 and sections just before and after Pit 2. Description: A very rare assemblage in the California desert, occurring only at Valley Wells. It is a disjunct community from the Great Basin desert to the north.
5. Basic Rupicola Assemblage. Associated with Limestone and Dolomite Outcroppings. Location: Pit 2 to 3, main course and option 2. Description: This assemblage is

VEGETATION RESOURCES

Amendment 6

BARSTOW TO VEGAS

Race Course

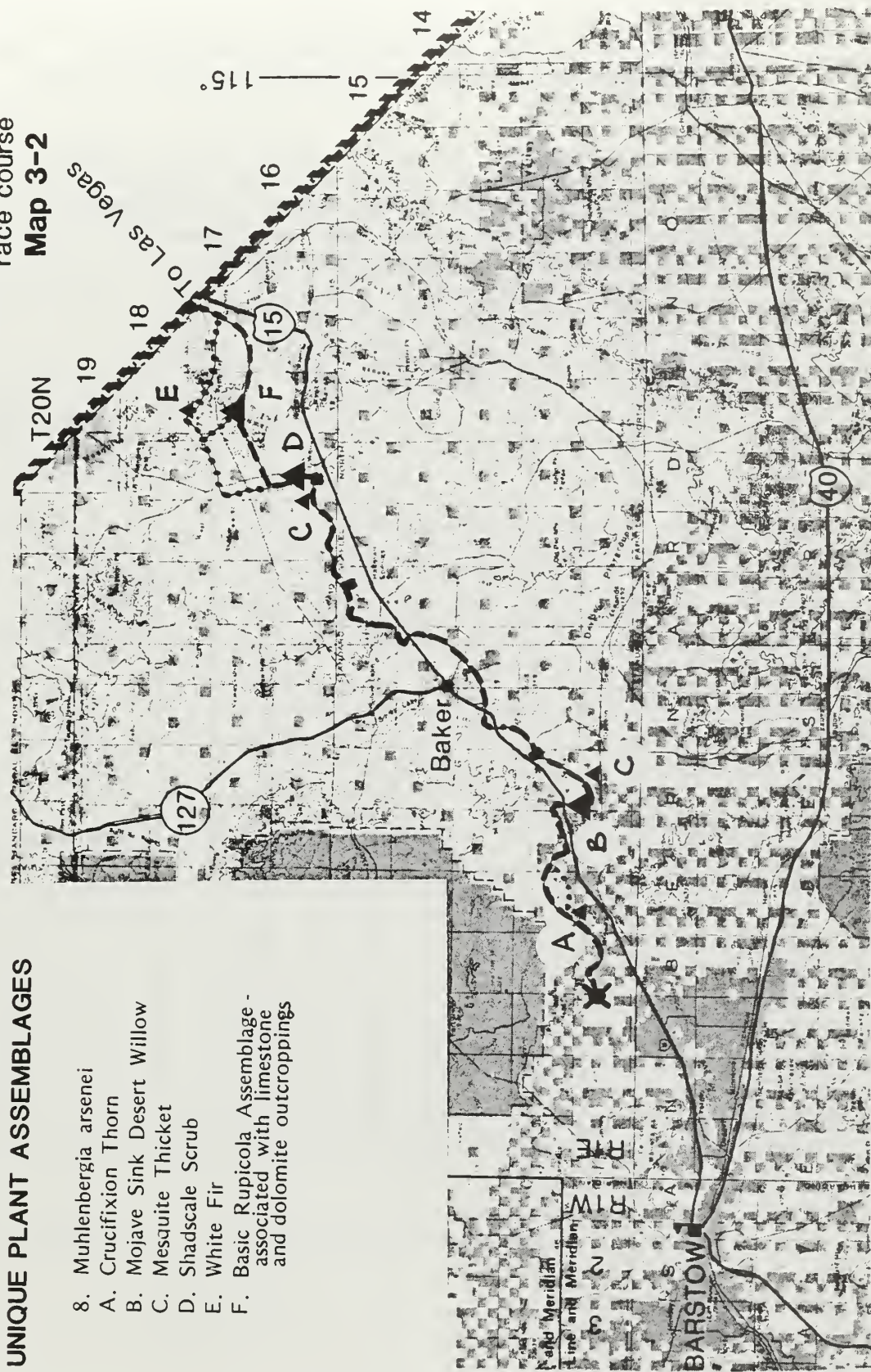
Establish a point-to-point
race course

Map 3-2

- MAIN ROUTE
- OPTIONAL ROUTE
- PIT AREA
- ✕ START AREA

UNIQUE PLANT ASSEMBLAGES

8. *Muhlenbergia arseniei*
- A. Crucifixion Thorn
- B. Mojave Sink Desert Willow
- C. Mesquite Thicket
- D. Shadscale Scrub
- E. White Fir
- F. Basic *Rupicola* Assemblage - associated with limestone and dolomite outcroppings



composed of rock-loving (rupicolous) plants that are restricted to limestone and dolomite outcroppings. This assemblage is noted for its large number of rare and endemic species.

6. Seeps and Springs. Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, main course. Description: A very rare and very sensitive UPA in the California desert. Found in Colosseum Gorge. It consists of the rare desert hackberry and other more common riparian plant species.

TABLE 3-1

MAJOR HABITAT TYPES ALONG PROPOSED RACE COURSE

Race Section	Dry Lake	Alkali Sink Scrub	Saltbush Scrub	Creosote Bush Scrub	Shadscale Scrub	Blackbush Scrub	Mixed Desert Scrub	Caliculous Scrub	Pinyon-Juniper Woodland	Joshua Tree Woodland	Desert Dry Wash Woodland	Desert Wash Scrub
Camping Area				X								
Start Cone				X								
Bomb to Mile 6				X								
Mile 6 to Pit 1				X							X	X
Option 1				X								X
Pit 1				X								
Pit 1 to Pit 2	X	X	X	X			X			X	X	X
Pit 2					X							
Alternate Pit 2												X
Pit 2 to Pit 3				X		X		X	X	X		X
Option 2				X				X		X		X
Option 3								X		X		X
Option 4										X		
Pit 3				X								

See Appendix E for descriptions of habitats.

Wildlife

Methodology

On the basis of information obtained from literature review, areas along the proposed course which have the highest potential for conflict were identified (see Maps 3-3 and 3-4). A field check of each respective area was then conducted to: 1) more accurately assess the potential for conflict; 2) locate any sensitive species or habitats within these areas which may have needed additional attention; and 3) provide specific mitigation recommendations to alleviate any potential conflicts where identified. Areas which were field checked were: 1) start, camping, and pit areas, where concentrated use would occur and potential for comparatively high levels of disturbance is greatest; 2) portions of the race course where prior races have not been run, such as the western side of the Cronese Mountains; 3) portions of the proposed race course which may contain habitats of comparatively high sensitivity, most notably the Clark Mountain area; and 4) comparatively high-density areas for the desert tortoise. Results of field surveys and information obtained through literature review was then incorporated into this document.

There have been several specific wildlife inventories undertaken in areas along the course. A general survey of the amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals was undertaken for the eastern Mojave Desert (Berry, Wessman, and Aardahl 1976). Bird surveys have been undertaken for mesquite-saltbush habitat near the course (Weinstein 1979); Weinstein and Berry 1978) and for tamarisk-quailbush marsh south of the proposed course (Cardiff and Cardiff 1978). Bird surveys for creosote bush-dominated habitats have also been undertaken in central San Bernardino County south of the proposed course (Rensen, Wessman and Berry 1976; Kubik and Rensen 1977). Reptile surveys have included a population study of the desert tortoise in the Shadow Valley (Berry and Nicholson 1979), general surveys of the eastern Mojave Desert (McGurty 1977) and Mojave River drainage (Brown 1978), and an area-specific study of Clark Mountain (Mitchell 1978). The 1974 Barstow-to-Vegas EIS contains summaries of species and habitats found along the route (BLM 1974, Appendices II-B-1, II-B-2 and II-B-4).

Camp/Start Area

There are no Federally listed wildlife species present within this area. The Mohave ground squirrel, a state-listed "rare" species, has not been recorded from the immediate area; however, the known geographic range of this species does extend to within 15 miles of the course. The desert tortoise, a state-protected species which has been listed as "sensitive" by the Bureau of Land Management, occurs over this general area in estimated densities of 0 to 20 square miles. Densities have been estimated based on transect counts undertaken during the California Desert Plan Program.

Bomb to Mile 6

Wildlife resources present within this portion of the race course are identical

Amendment 6 BARSTOW TO VEGAS Race Course

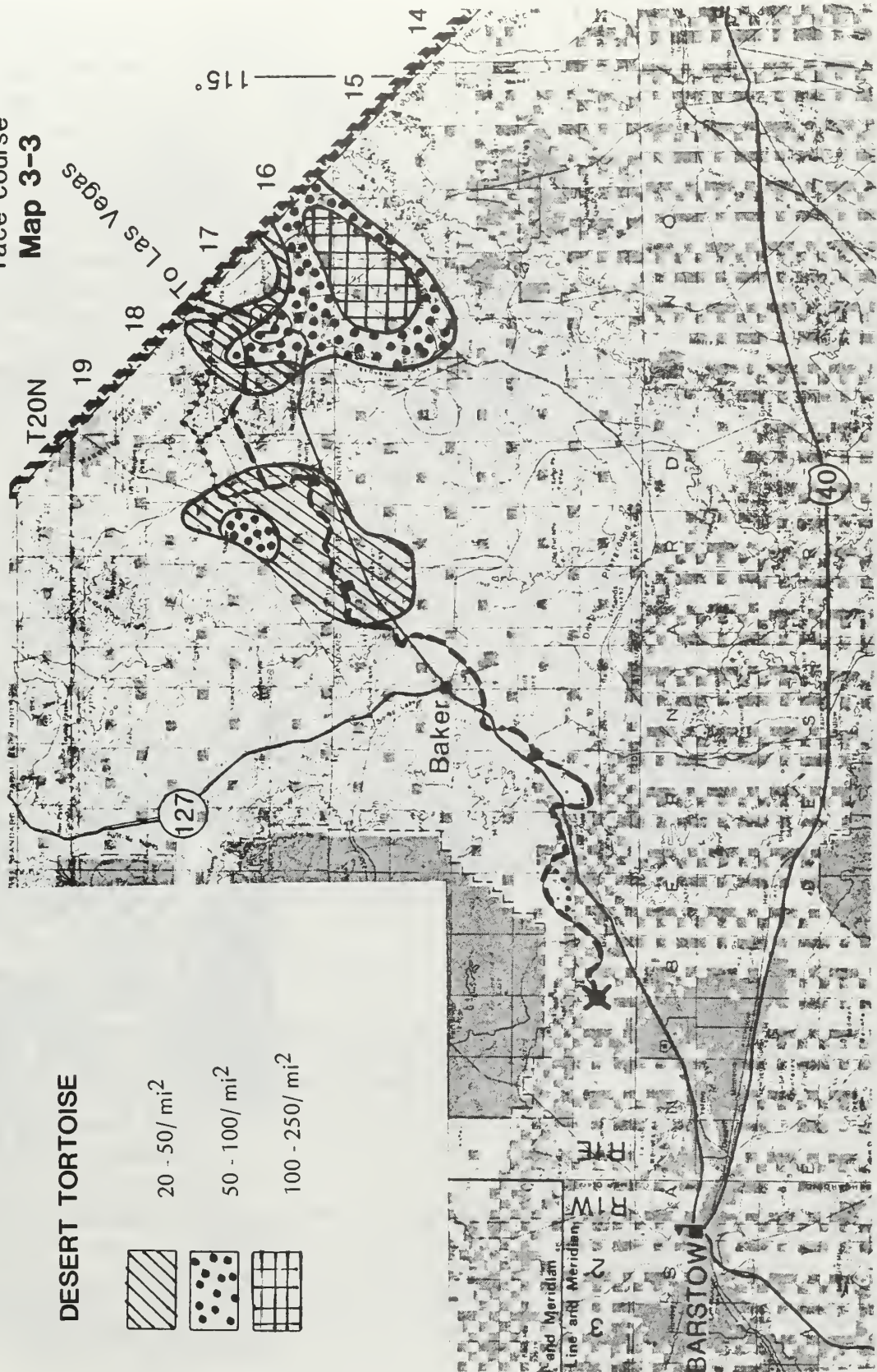
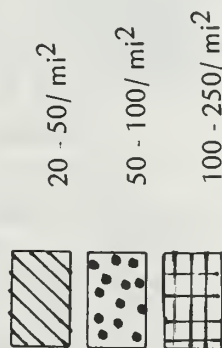
Establish a point-to-point
race course

Map 3-3

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

- MAIN ROUTE
- OPTIONAL ROUTE
- PIT AREA
- ✕ START AREA

DESERT TORTOISE



Amendment 6

BARSTOW TO VEGAS

Race Course

Establish a point-to-point
race course

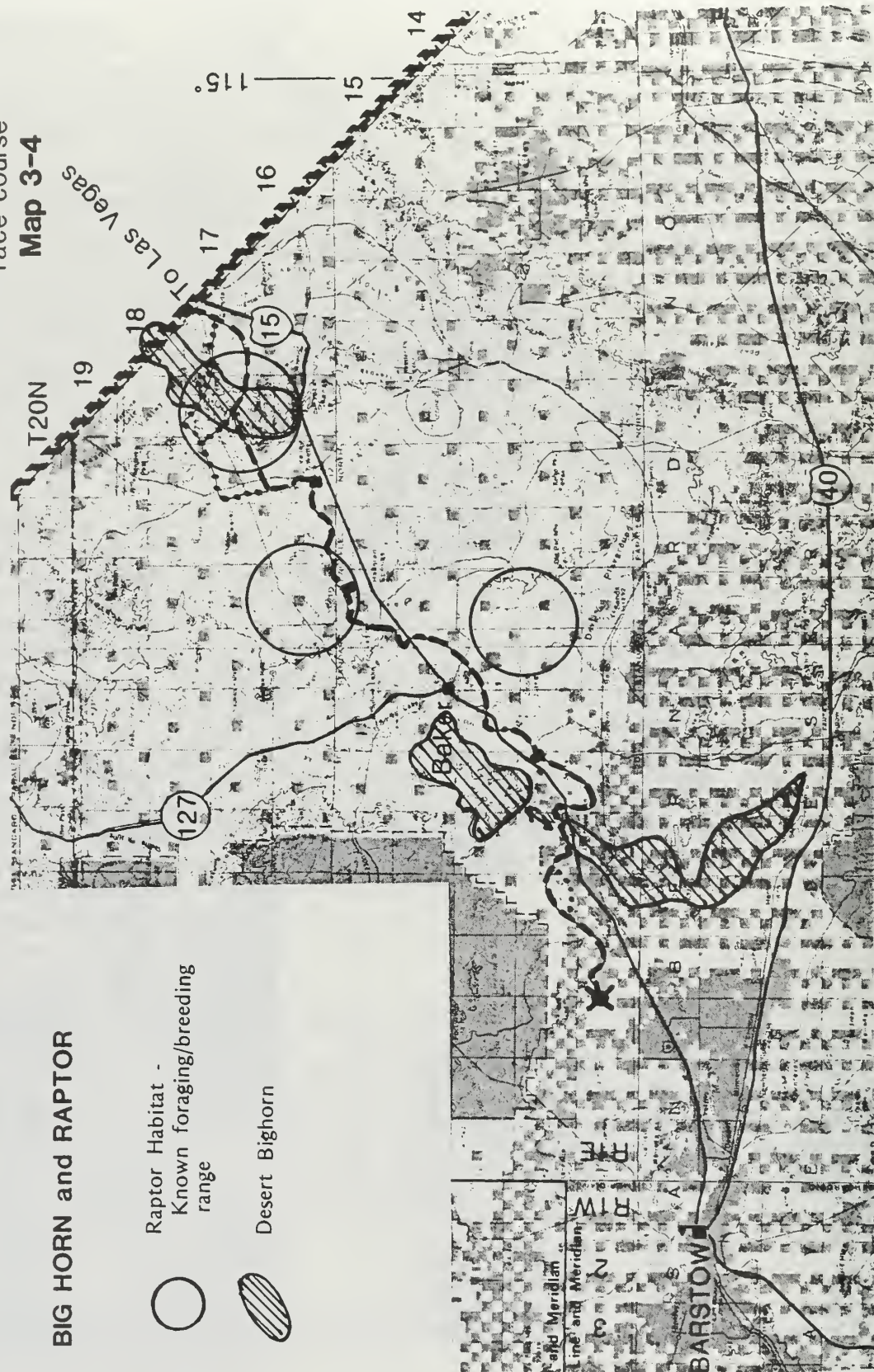
Map 3-4

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

- MAIN ROUTE
- OPTIONAL ROUTE
- PIT AREA
- ✕ START AREA

BIG HORN and RAPTOR

- Raptor Habitat -
Known foraging/breeding
range
- ▨ Desert Bighorn



to those present within the Start/Camping Area.

Mile 6 to Pit 1

There are no Federally listed or state-listed wildlife species present over this portion of the race course. The desert tortoise is present in estimated densities of 0 to 20 per square mile. Two wildlife species of disjunct distribution, the desert kangaroo rat and Mohave fringe-toed lizard, may be expected along portions of the course which travel through sandy soil substrates. Approximately 17 miles of this 31-mile course segment would contain favorable habitat for these species. A 14-mile segment of this portion of the course also travels through wildlife habitat dominated by mesquite and desert willow-lined washes. Bird species density and diversity in these associations is several times higher than in surrounding, creosote-dominated habitats, based on wintering and breeding bird surveys conducted during the California Desert Plan Program.

Option 1

Wildlife resources present within this portion of the race course are identical to those present within the Start/Camping Area.

Pit 1 to Pit 2

Approximately 125,000 acres in Shadow Valley comprise habitat for the desert tortoise (BLM Sensitive) with densities of 20-50 individuals per square mile. 23 miles of the main course runs through this tortoise habitat. Of the 23 miles, over 11 miles are not on existing roads but use either washes or old cross-country courses. Pit 2 itself is located on the periphery of desert tortoise habitat in Shadow Valley. The desert tortoise is fully protected in California and is under Federal status review.

Alternate Pit 2

This is located within the center of desert tortoise habitat (20-50 individuals per square mile); but is in an existing borrow pit and has already sustained significant degradation of habitat.

Pit 2 to Pit 3

Ten miles of the main course goes through desert tortoise habitat containing 20-50 individuals per square mile in eastern Shadow Valley and in northern Ivanpah Valley. Five of these 10 miles are not on existing roads. An additional 4 miles of the main course traverses prime desert tortoise habitat with population densities of 50-100 individuals per square mile in northern Ivanpah Valley. Approximately 1.5 miles of this are off existing roads.

Approximately 7 miles of the main course is through desert bighorn sheep (BLM Sensitive) range in the Clark Mountains, all on existing roads. The main course goes right by a known bighorn sheep water source (Green's Well) and within 3/4 mile of a bighorn sheep guzzler installed by the California Department of Fish and Game. Three more water sources occur adjacent to the course in Colosseum Gorge. The desert bighorn sheep is fully protected in California.

Option 2

This option goes through approximately 10 miles of desert tortoise habitat (20-50 per square mile), virtually all of which is off existing roads in eastern Shadow Valley and in northern Ivanpah Valley. This option comes close to but does not actually run through an area in northern Ivanpah Valley identified as prime desert tortoise habitat (50-100 per square mile). Option 2 goes through 4 miles of moderately important desert bighorn sheep habitat but does not go near any important bighorn sheep waters.

Option 3

This option is approximately 6 miles long with 3 of these miles being off existing roads. It avoids important desert tortoise habitat. Approximately 1 mile, on an existing road, courses through desert bighorn sheep habitats.

Option 4

This is approximately 2 miles in length, all on existing roads, and avoids important desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep habitats.

The main route and all three alternatives, in the Clark Mountain region, are within known foraging, breeding and nesting areas for several important species of raptors, such as the golden eagle, prairie falcon and Cooper's hawk.

Wilderness

Five wilderness study areas (WSAs) would be affected to some extent by the proposed action. In four of them (WSAs 222, 225, 227 and 228), the course travels along boundary roads, while in WSAs 225, and 242 the course travels within the WSA boundary. The five areas that would be affected are discussed in the order they appear from the start at Alvord Road to Pit 3.

WSA 242 - Soda Mountains

The course follows a wide, well defined sandy wash system (3 miles); the approximate alignment of a past route which as been almost completely washed out (3 miles); a well-established route once associated with a mining operation

(1 3/4 miles) to where it intersects a pole line route. The main course uses this pole line for approximately 4 miles before leaving the WSA. This is a well defined route which serves as the WSA boundary. It traverses washes, sandy areas and a relatively steep rocky hill.

Option 1 (6 1/2 miles) is within WSA 242 for 3 miles. For 1 mile, the course follows the WSA boundary a well defined road used by gravel trucks. The course then leaves the road and, entering the WSA, travels cross-country for 2 miles across a bajada characterized by creosote, washes and desert pavement. There is evidence of past motorcycle use, such as old rut scars spreading out approximately 75 feet. While these scars are visible, natural rehabilitation has taken place and the scars remain subordinate to the overall landscape.

WSA 228 - Hollow Hills

The main course follows an unmaintained route which constitutes the eastern WSA boundary. Much of the route is in a wash.

WSA 222 - Kingston Range

Option 2 follows Kingston Wash for 1 mile along the border of the WSA.

WSA 225 - Mesquite Mountains

Option 2 enters the WSA after crossing Kingston Road. At this point the course follows the alignment of a route shown on the Mesquite Lake Surface Management Status map for approximately 6 1/2 miles. This route is not evident, primarily because of wash erosion and natural rehabilitation. There is evidence of past motorcycle use characterized by motorcycle tracks stretching out for 75 feet, and some motorcycle "whoop de do's." This old motorcycle route is not evident in the WSA as a whole, and during the wilderness inventory was not considered noticeable enough to affect the WSA's boundary.

The remainder of Option 2 within the WSA follows unmaintained routes, clearly defined washes and a wash adjacent to a power line right-of-way that constitutes the southern boundary of the WSA.

Option 3 follows an obvious wash system, down to the power line right-of-way where it leaves the WSA. This wash system is defined well enough to keep riders from straying off the course.

Option 4 follows obvious ways for its entire 2.5 mile length.

WSA - 227 Clark Mountains

The main route follows the northern WSA boundary route from the Excelsior Mine Road to the eastern boundary. This route is a well defined rocky route for 7 miles. Adjacent vegetation is thick, with Joshua Tree and Yucca intermixed with boulder-strewn hills, thus forcing riders to stay on the course.

CHAPTER 4

**ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSEQUENCES**

CHAPTER IV

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the scientific and analytic basis for the selection of the preferred alternative. It discusses the significant impacts that are anticipated to result from both implementation and rejection of each of the amendments. Both the beneficial and adverse impacts affecting the environmental components, as discussed in Chapter 3, will be documented. This chapter also includes: mitigating measures needed to enhance beneficial impacts or lessen adverse impacts; unavoidable adverse impacts which cannot be mitigated; the relationship between short-term use and enhancement of long-term productivity; and irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

Knowledge of the area and professional judgment, based on observation and analysis of similar conditions and responses in similar areas, have been used to infer environmental impacts where data is limited.

The analysis of the amendments is based on the following assumptions:

- Funds and personnel are available for implementation.
- Impacts will be monitored and adjusted as necessary.
- Minor adjustments in management may occur.
- Baseline data are accurate.

Within each amendment analysis, the discussion is organized by resource. Only those resources affected are discussed. A resource that is not expected to be affected is not addressed. Except where specifically noted, no impacts on air quality are anticipated.

Please note that the analysis of cultural resource concerns presented in this chapter and in Appendix F reflects data predominantly collected during the plan inventory and not data collected in the consideration of the proposed amendments. The 60-day public review period will provide an opportunity to supplement, correct, and update information relative to changes in issues of concern and/or formal positions which have occurred subsequent to the original plan inventory.

SPECIFIC IMPACTS

AMENDMENT ONE: NEW COMMUNICATIONS SITES

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

The Multiple-Use Class L Guidelines for communication sites were written with

the intention that future needs to the year 2000 would be met by those potential sites identified and drawn on Desert Plan Map number 16, Energy Production and Utility Corridors. However, only four proposed new sites were identified (compared to over 55 identified existing communications sites).

The result of changing the Multiple-Use Class Guidelines for Class L would be twofold:

1. Greater flexibility in choosing sites which would allow for changes in the technology of communications site construction and needs. More and more sites are self-contained, computerized, small, unobtrusive and portable by helicopter.
2. Company planning needs for 20 years in the future have not been formulated for these projects. Plans would not need to be locked into a limited number of sites.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

The communication site may not be constructed, or may be constructed on another site usually less desirable from the applicant's view. It may be less or more dependent on the alternative sites chosen. Quite often where a chain of communication sites are needed, changing one site may require changing several sites.

AMENDMENT TWO: REVISE MINERALS GUIDELINES

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Locatables

In-house processing would be quicker, reducing delays. Operators would be more inclined to file plans of operations since the time between filing and plan approval would be reduced. Public interest in commenting on Class L plans has been low, as less than two percent of the plans have received comments. This change does not limit management's option to require a public comment period in those areas in which substantial public interest exists (see 43 CFR 3809.2-1(c)).

Leaseables and Saleables

There would be quicker in-house processing of plans and less delay for applicants. This change would assure that the District can meet California's lease application deadlines which were established in accordance with new priorities set for the Energy Program.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Maintaining the 30-day requirement would cause needless delay, since the public, to date, has not shown a great interest in the process. All users could incur additional interest expenses, especially in the case of energy lease applications. In this case, the applicant must pay the first year rental "up-front"; in a large lease block, this could represent a significant amount of money.

AMENDMENT THREE:

REVISE MOTORIZED VEHICLE ELEMENT

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

On the surface it might appear that the amendment may cause adverse impacts by lowering the level of concern about motorized vehicle use in Class L. However, this is not the case. The amendment would allow an easily understood route approval process that would: 1) focus BLM's resources on Class L areas that require use adjustment; 2) develop maps and use guides that will aid the general recreation user as well as the more intensive desert users to avoid conflict areas and minimize surface disturbance. Most importantly, it would reduce visitor confusion over whether a route can be used and will gain support for closures or other limits when these actions are required. With BLM's resources tightly focused on problem solving in Class L areas first, and with monitoring to predict conflicts between vehicle use and resource management objectives, the amendment should result in positive environmental impacts.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Rejecting the amendment would retain an element in the Desert Plan that experience has shown to be unworkable. The concept that routes of travel in Class L are closed to vehicle access unless specifically opened causes unacceptable expenditures in inventory and analysis. Detailed inventory is needed to assure that all routes have been identified so that none are closed simply because they were never considered.

The court decision in California Native Plant Society vs. Watt invalidates the criteria for route selection in Class L as written on page 91 of the Plan. This alone requires amendment to delete the criteria.

AMENDMENT FOUR:

REVISE WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES

Alternatives A and B: Accept Either of the Two Alternative Wordings

The guidelines for Water Quality are general at present. The impacts of the proposed changes in the guidelines would be negligible since the guidelines remain open to management interpretation.

Alternative C: Reject Amendment (No Action)

No Impact.

AMENDMENT FIVE:

CHANGE PORTION OF WSA 127 FROM C TO L AND OPEN PANAMINT DUNES

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Increased off-road vehicle use would result in permanent damage to, or complete destruction of many, if not all, of the archaeological and Native American values documented. Most of the archaeological materials are surface manifestations, which leave them completely vulnerable to any form of surface disturbance. Not only does vehicle activity damage artifacts, but it also destroys crucial relationships between various components of an archaeological site by moving artifacts out of their original locations. Vehicle activity can also cause minor increased or accelerated erosion of soils, which can result in the loss of internal relationships at an archaeological site or disturbance of subsurface materials. Scientific data that could do much to increase knowledge of the history of man in the southwest would be lost.

In addition to irreversible damage or complete destruction of the information and scientific values contained in the known archaeological sites, many more as yet unknown sites would suffer.

Two very special types of impact, aside from physical damage, may also occur. The first of these is potential impacts to Native American sacred values. Rock cairns and alignments of the type present in Panamint Valley are known to sometimes mark the location of human burials, or to have other sacred or religious meaning. Damage to such sites could have very painful adverse impacts on deeply held religious convictions of living Native Americans.

Finally, loss of or damage to archaeological materials would have serious consequences for a 20-year research project devoted to studying these materials. Although there are number of locations in the California Desert with excellent research potential, this is one locality in which that research potential has been realized. The unique potential of Northern Panamint Valley for reconstructing paleoclimates and for understanding human cultural responses to changing climatic conditions led Dr. Emma Lou Davis to select this area over others. The information obtained by Dr. Davis' Great Basin Foundation has significance for our understanding of paleoprehistory (beginning 10,000 years ago) not merely locally, but on a regional and perhaps national basis.

Wildlife

The Panamint Dunes are utilized by a variety of sand-dwelling species including

the Mojave fringe-toed lizard (Uma scoparia). Three previously undescribed species of beetles were listed by Hardy and Andrews (1976) as endemic to the Panamint Dunes. These were in the genera Trigonoscuta (family curculionidae), Phoebetus (family scarabaeidae), and Pilothis (family histeridae). The dunes are also used by species found throughout the valley such as kit foxes (Vulpes macrotis) and kangaroo rats (Dipodomys sp).

Bondello and Brattstrom (1979a) have shown that exposure to noise generated by dune buggies may cause loss of hearing in Mohave fringe-toed lizards. The season of heaviest ORV use corresponds significantly with the reproduction period (April to July) of this species (Mayhew 1965). Hearing is especially critical to species inhabiting open habitats such as dunes. Bondello and Brattstrom (1979b) concluded that the desert kangaroo rat (Dipodomys deserti) cannot tolerate intense ORV activities due to their strong reliance on hearing, the fragility of their burrows, and the narrowness of their niche requirements.

Disturbance due to noise, crushing of lizards and rodents in burrows, and loss of vegetation used for food and cover would result in an unpredictable loss of wildlife within the Dunes.

The reduction of dune vegetation may result in the loss of the three endemic species of beetles.

Wilderness

The proposed amendment would create major adverse impacts on the wilderness values of the Panamint Dunes Wilderness Study Area (WSA). This area was rated number 7 in the CDCA and has been recommended as suitable for designation as Wilderness. The wilderness area topographically is a natural bowl; the dunes are near the bottom of the bowl, at its center. Impacts would result from removal of the "core" of the suitable area, and would reduce the size, natural condition, opportunities for solitude, scenic values, cultural and historic values, and the diversity of landform proposed as CDCA Wilderness. Most importantly, the proposed action would create an unmanageable situation for portions of the suitable area due to the intrusive sights and sounds of man from the open area, and because of the lack of recognizable, manageable boundaries.

Wild Horse and Burros

The dunes are within a Burro Herd Management Area. Limited dune buggy use in this region would cause some long-term harassment of burros by the increased recreational use. However, this harassment would result in only minor changes in burro populations.

Motorized Vehicles

ORV use of the dunes has been light in the past, consisting mainly of a local group of 40 to 50 people in dune buggies and a few overnight campers. Use

averages 30-40 vehicles per month with more in the spring. Closure of the dunes by the Desert Plan has not been actively enforced by signing or special patrol.

There are no comparable dunes available locally. Opening the dunes would increase opportunities for recreational use.

Soils

Vehicle use on dunes would leave minor impacts on soils because dune sands are extremely resistant to soil compaction and have very small increases in wind erosions after disturbance. Studies done with a portable wind tunnel show that many disturbed dune surfaces have slightly lower wind erosion threshold velocities (wind velocity at which wind erosion begins) than undisturbed dune surfaces. On virtually all dune surfaces, crusts are very weak or nonexistent and produce very little or no stabilization. The wind erosion threshold velocities of both disturbed and undisturbed sand dunes are both so low that they would be exceeded by many winds. There would be small differences in sand moved on disturbed dunes compared to undisturbed dunes. Visual traces of tracks in dune sand would not remain long because of the frequent movement of sand. However, if use is allowed, new tracks would frequently be created so tracks would generally be visible.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Rejection may lead to continued unauthorized use of the Panamint Dunes or possibly contribute to the unauthorized use of other closed dune systems (i.e., Eureka or Saline). Unauthorized use in any of these areas adversely impacts significant cultural resources. Regular patrol and vigorous enforcement of the closure would be necessary to eliminate damage to significant cultural resources of northern Panamint Valley. Otherwise, adverse impacts from unauthorized ORV use would continue at its current sporadic level.

Wildlife

Rejection of the amendment would assist in the maintenance of dune-dwelling species, some of which are endemic to the Panamint Dunes.

Motorized Vehicles

Signing and patrol of the area would be required to enforce closure. Effective enforcement could be a problem and would require development of an enforcement plan at the time of implementation. Recreation opportunities for the small number of vehicle-oriented recreationists expected to use the area would be reduced by the required three-mile walk. However, there would be no significant impact on other vehicle-use areas due to the light use occurring at present.

AMENDMENT SIX:
BARSTOW TO VEGAS

Accept Amendment

Assumptions

- Pitting areas would cover no more than 8 acres.
- width from the bomb to mile 6 would be 200 feet maximum, with impact concentrated in a 50-foot zone.
- When course is on roads, racers will remain on the road surface.
- There will be no pre-running of the Barstow-to-Vegas race.
- Spectators would be at the camp/start area and the pitting areas.

Air

A race would cause temporary increases in the amounts of oxidants and carbon monoxide near all portions of the course. Overall increase of gaseous matter within the air basins would be insignificant (BLM 1974). Based on measurements made of total suspended particulates at all ORV races thus far monitored in the California desert, Federal and California State air quality standards would be violated (Rowlands 1980, p. 18, 21). Giroux (1979) suggests that total suspended particulate values return to normal within 1-2 days. Total suspended particulate measurements may approach background values in less than 100 meters upwind of an event.

The greatest impact from dust may occur where the course parallels and crosses I-15 in Cronese Valley. It could distract motorist's attention to their driving and might be extreme enough under heavy wind conditions to dangerously restrict motorist's vision (Final EIS for Barstow-Las Vegas Race, 1974). Such a condition can't be predicted with confidence, however.

Dust from wind erosion may occur after the race until rain or sufficient removal of fine material leave a non-erodible layer of surface material to restrict additional erosion. Wind erosion would be limited by short erosion fetches (distance of disturbed soil parallel to the wind) and high concentrations of coarse surface material along much of the course.

Soil

Soil impacts along roads would generally be small. The Evaluation Report of the 1974 Barstow-Las Vegas Motorcycle Race (BLM, 1975) concluded that, "As anticipated, the increase in tracks where the course traverses dirt roads is almost

non-existent." The largest effect along dirt roads may be increased rutting (whoop de doos).

Washes are very resistant to soil impacts in comparison to many other desert soils, although some compaction may occur if races are held several years in a row. Wilshire and Nakata (1976) concluded that the degree of compaction in heavy use zones of washes is normally much lower than on most of the alluvial fans. Measurements by Babcock (1973) showed a small increase in compaction of tracked areas in a wash compared to undisturbed areas, but the compaction was much less than that measured in heavily tracked locations on alluvial fans and on desert flats.

The amount of accelerated erosion in washes due to racing would be much less than the amounts of material which would be transported during flash floods by washes in an undisturbed condition.

Measurements along the Barstow-to-Vegas race course made by the BLM (1975) showed increased bulk densities in two-thirds of the samples taken after the race. Most of the areas which had decreased bulk density (loosening) after the race occurred on playas or in loose sandy soil in washes. Penetrometer and shear strength measurements were also made. However, the report states that a number of the measurements made after the race were obtained one week after a rain. Since shear strength or penetrometer measurements vary greatly with soil moisture, the comparisons between measurements made under varying moisture conditions involve great uncertainties.

Some additional compaction would occur in the camping area, pit areas and most of the length of previously used cross-country segments; however, these areas have already received considerable prior disturbance. Compaction from a single race would be much greater if the event is run on wet soil rather than on dry soil. BLM has measured large increases in soil compaction which were caused by a single motorcycle race on wet soil. As few as five passes of a motorcycle (but not one or three), in a track made on wet soil in controlled experiments were observed to cause a significant reduction in growth of desert annuals over a year (after tracks were created (Adams et al, 1982). A much larger number of motorcycle passes in a track on dry soil would be required to cause a similar reduction in plant growth.

The relatively level nature of the terrain and the high percentage of coarse fragments along much of the course would tend to limit accelerated water erosion. The high proportion of coarse fragments would also limit wind erosion along much of the course. After a thin layer of fine material is removed from coarse surface soil, the remaining fragments would restrict further wind erosion.

Start Cone and Camp Area

These previously disturbed areas would receive additional compaction. The large areas of loosened soil would be susceptible to wind erosion will rain reestablishes a crust.

Bomb to Mile 6

The heavy use zone would increase soil compaction in about 18 acres.

From Mile 6 to Pit 1

About 14 acres along the course would be subjected to increased soil compaction. Some lesser amounts of compactions may be produced in washes. Additional soil compaction would be produced within the pit area.

Option 1

About 12 acres would be subjected to increased soil compaction.

Pit 1 to Pit 2

About 20 acres along the previously used cross country course would receive increased soil compaction and about 4.5 acres of soil along the previously undisturbed cross country course would be compacted. Additional soil compaction would be produced within the pit area (vehicles would stay on soils already compacted by previous usage in either proposed pit).

From Pit 2 to Pit 3

About 3 acres of previously undisturbed cross country soils would be compacted. Compaction would occur within the previously disturbed pit area.

Option 2

About 9 acres of soil would receive increased compaction.

Option 3

Some compaction may occur in washes

Option 4

Little impact to soils are anticipated as course is all on roads.

Cultural Resources

It is assumed that any resource within 200 feet of the off-road portions of the course are subject to direct impact. For portions of the source following graded dirt roads, direct impacts would be confined to resources within the road or road margins. Indirect impacts or impacts from spectators may occur anywhere in the area of the race course; the precise nature and intensity of these impacts is difficult to predict. It is probable that resources most affected would be those with high visibility, such as the Ivanpah townsite.

All recorded sites are listing in Table 4-1. Where appropriate, specific mitigation has been recommended for implementation before a November 1983 race.

TABLE 4-1

BARSTOW-TO-VEGAS MOTORCYCLE RACE - 1983
Archaeological Sites on and Near Race Route
Unmitigated Impact Assessment

Site No.	Location	Site Description	Impact		Comments
			Direct	Indirect	
4-SBr-3173	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Isolated artifact- small lithic scatter	L	M	
4-SBr-3174	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Lithic Workshop debris	H	M	
4-SBr-3180	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Lithic Workshop debris	L	M?	
4-SBr-3181	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Lithic Workshop debris	L	M?	
4-SBr-3739	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Large Quarry Area	L	M?	
4-SBr-875	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Lithic Workshop debris	L	L	
4-SBr-877	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Lithic Workshop debris	N	L	
4-SBr-3178	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Lithic Workshop debris	N	L	
4-SBr-2835	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Lithic Workshop debris	N	L	
4-SBr-2154	Cave Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Lithic scatter/temporary camp	H	L?	This site is located directly on the race course. Recommend National Reg documentation and collection of site. Site should be photographed, mapped.
4-SBr-2219	Cave Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Cores & flakes, scattered	H	L	Same as 4-SBr-2154 comments
4-SBr-2220	Cave Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Scattered cores and flakes	H	L	Same as 4-SBr-2154 comments
4-SBr-2161	Cave Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Lithic Scatter	H	L	Same as 4-SBr-2154 comments
4-SBr-129	Cave Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Prehistoric temporary camp site	N	N	No site was found despite concerted effort to relocate the site on foot.
4-SBr-541	Soda Lake USGS 15' Quad	Lithic workshop/prehistoric temporary camp associated with Soda Lake	N	N	Appears to have been completely collected during an archaeological investigation in 1974

H=High M=Medium L=Low N=Negligible

TABLE 4-1 (con't)

BARSTOW-TO-VEGAS MOTORCYCLE RACE - 1983
Archaeological Sites on and Near Race Route
Unmitigated Impact Assessment

Site No.	Location	Site Description	Impact		Comments
			Direct	Indirect	
4-SBr-268	Soda Lake 15' USGS Quad	Lithic Scatter	L	N	Site was collected in 1950. A few artifacts remain.
CA-069-152	Soda Lake 15' USGS Quad	Large lithic scatter with various artifacts	H	N	Recommend Nat'l Reg documentation and collection of site. Site should be photographed and mapped.
Hallaron Spring Off Ramp	Halloran Spring USGS 15'	Petroglyphs, pottery, lithics	L	M	
Valley Wells Area	Mescal Range USGS 15' Quad	Lithic scatters, rock-shelters	M	M	
4-SBr-906, 906A, 906B, 906C	Clark Mtn 15' Quad	Agave Roasting Pits	L	N	
CA-069-151	Clark Mtn 15' USGS Quad	Agave roasting pits	M	N	
Collosseum Gorge	Clark Mountain 15' USGS Quad	Historic Mining camps. Prehistoric temporary camps and agave roasting pits	L	L	
CA-069-153	Roach Lake USGS 15' Quad	Temporary camp, lithic scatters	H	H	Recommend this area be documented for the Nat'l Reg and site collected (map and photograph site)
Ivanpah Lake shoreline near pit 3	Soda Lake USGS 15' Quad	Old Government Road	L	L	Course crosses the road at one point
	Soda Lake USGS 15' Quad	Tonopah-Tidewater RR Grade	L	L	Course crosses grade at one point
	Alvord Mtn USGS 15' Quad	Old Spanish Trail	N	L?	Trail obliterated in race area. Exact route not known historically

H=High M=Medium L=Low N=Negligible

Recreation

If the proposed action is approved, it would establish once again a popular although controversial annual ORV event. The demand for enduro-type events is very high in the California desert. To the motorcycle racing community, the Barstow-to-Vegas race is considered one of the high points of desert racing.

An annual Barstow-to-Vegas race would affect recreation in a number of ways:

- ORV opportunity would be significant, though seasonally, increased.
- Use of Rasor Open Area would present short-term conflicts between racers and normally heavy Thanksgiving use by general ORV recreationists.
- Hunting and related activities would be temporarily disrupted between Halloran Springs and Clark Mountain.
- Rockhounding in the Turquoise Mountains would be affected for one day due to use of access roads for the race course.
- Afton Canyon would experience an increase in use during the race weekend.
- Opportunity for solitude may be temporarily impaired in two wilderness study areas that have very low visitation rates.

Social and Economic Factors

It is estimated that 4000-5000 people would participate in the proposed race, either as participants, family, spectators, or support crews. With an average stay in the area of two days, and expenditures of \$20/day per person, approximately \$90,000 could be generated for businesses from Barstow to Stateline. The smaller communities anticipate and encourage these types of events during the year, and count on them as an economic mainstay in the winter off-season.

Traffic and safety problems are expected to occur at the Rasor Road off-ramp on I-15. Pit crews and spectators at Pit 1 would impede normal traffic flow into the Rasor Open Area. Freeway users may experience some difficulty in utilizing fuel services at the Rasor Chevron station. Baker would experience heavier than normal traffic from spectators using services there. There would be an extra burden on law enforcement and traffic control capabilities.

A few individuals living along or near the course will be adversely affected by a race because of access constraints and loss of privacy or solitude.

Special use fees would be assessed for the first three years of the course's use. Assuming 1200 entrants each year, \$3,600 would be generated each year for a total of \$10,800. Annual BLM costs for processing the permit and monitoring use should average less than \$3,000 (assuming 30 work days).

Vegetation

General Anticipated Impacts

Direct impacts to vegetation from off-road vehicle use have been documented by numerous studies (Hall, 1980; Wilshire et al, 1978; Wood and Robertson, 1976; Klock, 1976; Luckenbach, 1975; and Stebbins, 1974). These authors noted surface

shearing disturbances (uprooting and disruption of root systems) and crushing effects (crushing of foliage, root systems, and seedlings) as the major types of direct impacts. These disturbances change patterns and composition of vegetation communities through reduction in density, diversity, and cover of perennial plants. Indirect adverse impacts to vegetation result primarily from soil disturbance, which can occur in several ways (see soils section). These types of impacts to soils and vegetation from ORVs has been documented in various studies (Wilshire and Nakata, 1976; Davidson and Fox, 1974; Wilshire, 1977; Lathrop, 1978; Rowlands et al, 1980).

The level of adverse effect on vegetation resources would vary with type of terrain, number and type of participating vehicles, and levels of prior use. Portions of the race course over which previous races have been run should be subjected to comparatively lower levels of adverse impact than those areas which have not been so utilized. Impacts to vegetation resources would also be minimized on those portions of the course which have sustained previously heavy surface disturbance from road grading or regular vehicle use. Highest levels of adverse impacts would occur in areas subjected to minimal previous habitat disturbance, areas which would receive concentrated use (i.e., start, finish and pit areas), and areas of highest resource sensitivity (i.e., sensitive plant habitat and UPAs). Anticipated levels of impact to vegetation resources for various portions of the proposed course are indicated in Table 4-1.

Sensitive Plants

Each sensitive plant species was rated on potential for impacts. Impact categories are defined as follows (BLM, 1977):

- (a) A high impact is a severe threat to the viability of a species or population, with high probability that said species would be nearly or completely extirpated from the impacted area
- (b) A moderate impact is a substantial and essentially permanent reduction in the abundance of a species, but not posing a serious threat to the survival of the population or species
- (c) A low impact is a minor alteration of the structure of a species population, but without substantial impairment of viability
- (d) None.

The following impacts are anticipated for the sensitive plants described in Chapter III (Affected Environment):

- (a) Agave utahensis var. nevadensis. Clark Mountain agave. Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, main course and option 2. Potential for Impact: Low. The proposed course passes directly through populations of this sensitive plant in two locations, but the course is on well established roads or trails in narrow, rocky, steep-walled canyons

that should prevent competitors from going off the main course. The plants are growing on or above the canyon walls and would be avoided.

- (b) Arctomecon merriamii. Bear Poppy. Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, option 2. Potential for Impact: None. The proposed course turns south into a wash as it enters the habitat for this species and it would, therefore, be avoided.
- (c) Forsellesia pungens var. glabra. Low greasebush. Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, main course. Potential for Impact: None. Although C.N.P.S. maps show a population of this species at Green's well, BLM field studies found no plants or suitable habitat (i.e., limestone) at this site, although considerable suitable habitat exists on Clark Mountain proper to the south of this site.

The following impacts are anticipated for the C.N.P.S. List 4 plant species described in Chapter III (Affected Environment):

- (d) Androstephium breviflorum. Small flowered androstephium. Location: Mile 6 to Pit 1 south of East Cronese Lake, adjacent to Interstate 15. Potential for Impact: Low. The proposed race course in this area is on a well established power line road traversing rough terrain covered with dense vegetation. Competitors wandering into this area should be rare and subsequently, the impacts to the species should be low.
- (e) Fendlerella utahensis. Yerba desierto. Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, main course. Potential for Impact: None. See comments above under (c).
- (f) Celtis reticulata. Desert hackberry. Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, main course. Potential for Impact: Low. The proposed race course in this area is on a well established road in a narrow canyon. The desert hackberry occurs along the course, but just above it on the walls of Colosseum Gorge and is unlikely to be impacted.
- (g) Linanthus arenicola. Sand linanthus. Location: Pit 1 to Pit 2; 1 1/2 mile north of Pit 1, adjacent to Interstate 15. Potential for Impact: None. The distance between this location and the proposed race course, which is 1/2 mile over rough and rock terrain, should provide adequate protection for this sensitive plant.
- (h) Muhlenbergia arsenei. Tough muhly. Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, option 3. Potential for Impact: Low. See comments above under (a).

Unusual Plant Assemblages:

The following impacts are anticipated for the UPAs described in Chapter III, Affected Environment, (see Table 4-1 for definition of impact ratings):

- (a) Crucifixion Thorn. Location: Mile 6 to Pit 1. Potential for Impact: Low. The proposed course passes this UPA on the south and the north, but does not come close enough to represent a threat to the assemblage. The southern route is a distance of 1 1/4 mile from the UPA and angles away from the area. The northern route passes with 1/2 mile of the UPA, but a low ridge and series of hills provide a natural barrier between them. Additional course flagging should be added where the course passes this UPA to assure that wandering does not become a problem.
- (b) Mojave Sink Desert Willow. Location: Mile 6 to Pit 1, south of East Cronese Lake. Potential for Impact: Low. The proposed race course passes through this UPA following the Mojave River drainage and associated washes. The route chosen follows a major wash which has an average width of approximately 50 feet. It is generally devoid of vegetation except for Desert Willow along its flanks and occasionally scattered in the wash bottom. There is adequate space for riders to proceed without damaging the trees or injuring themselves. Additional flagging and possibly a check point should be utilized in this area to reduce rider straying.
- (c) Mesquite Thickets. Location: Mile 6 to Pit 1. Potential for Impact: Low the proposed course passes through or near stands of mesquite along its course. Direct damage to vegetation in these areas is very unlikely because the thickets provide a formidable and dangerous obstacle. Secondary impacts to wildlife will be discussed in the wildlife element.
- (d) Shadescall Scrub. Location: Pit 2, end of Pit 1 to Pit 2 section, and beginning of Pit 2 to Pit 3 main course. Potential for Impact: Moderate. The proposed race course passes directly through this UPA and Pit 2 is located in the center of this UPA. Use of this pitting area would result in a severe disruption of the community, while the use of Alternative Pit 2 would greatly reduce the potential of impact to this UPA.
- (e) Basic Rupicola Assemblage Associated with limestone and dolomite outcroppings. Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, main course and option 2. Potential for Impact: Low. The proposed race course passes directly through this UPA in two places, but is on well established roads or trails in narrow, rocky, steep-walled canyons that prevent competitors from wandering through this UPA.
- (f) Seeps and Springs. Location: Pit 2 to Pit 3, main course. Potential for Impact: Low. The course through this UPA is on an existing, well-travelled dirt road in a narrow canyon (Colosseum Gorge). Additional impacts are anticipated to be minimal.

Table 4-2 Relative Impacts to Vegetation Resources

Race Section	Criteria						% Estimated Impact Level **
	1	2	3	4	5	6	%
Camping Area (960 Ac.)				X	X	X	25-30 Low 70-75 Moderate-High
Start Cone (1600 Ac.)				X	X	X	25-30 Low 70-75 Moderate-High
Bomb to Mile 6				X	X		100 Moderate-High
Mile 6 to Pit 1		X	X				23 Low 77 Moderate
Option 1					X	X	33 Low 67 Moderate-High
Pit 1 (8 Ac.)				X	X	X	60 Low 40 Moderate-High
Pit 1 to Pit 2		X	X		X		55 Low 40 Moderate 05 High
Pit 2 (8 Ac.)		X		X			25-30 Low 70-75 Moderate-High
Alternate Pit 2 (8 Ac.)				X		X	70-75 Low 25-30 Moderate-High
Pit 2 to Pit 3	X	X	X		X	X	73 Low 21 Moderate 06 High
Option 2	X	X	X		X	X	21 Low 79 Moderate
Option 3	X	X	X			X	45 Low 55 Moderate
Option 4	X	X	X			X	100 Low
Pit 3 (8 Ac.)				X		X	100 Low

* Criteria are as follows: 1. Presence of State or Federally listed threatened/endangered plants, or sensitive plants.
 2. Presence of Unusual Plant Assemblages.
 3. Unusually high diversity or density of species.
 4. Probability of intense OPV activity.
 5. Unusual susceptibility to disruption (includes recovery potential).
 6. Past moderate to high vehicle use along portions of the course.

**The following definitions were used in assigning an impact rating to each habitat type (BLM, 1977):

1. High impact: a severe disruption of the integrity of an ecological community, degrading it to a lower successional stage. The stability, efficiency and functions of the community are severely impaired. Recovery to predisturbance condition is slow (several decades to centuries) or may never occur.
2. Moderate impact: a substantial disruption of the integrity of a community with a slow recovery potential, or a severe disruption of a community having high potential for rapid recovery (a few years to a few decades).
3. Low impact: minor alteration of the structure of a community, but without substantial impairment of viability,

Wildlife

Direct impacts to wildlife have been addressed in several studies (Boyce and Garrett 1976; O'Farrell 1970; Bury 1978; Weinstein 1978; Bondello and Brattstrom 1979; Bury, Luckenbach and Busack 1977). Indirect adverse impacts (from loss or damage to habitat) due to off-road vehicle use have also been documented in various literature (Wilshire and Nakata 1976; Bury, Luckenbach and Busack 1977; Davidson and Fox 1974; Wilshire 1977; Lathrop 1978; Rowlands et al 1980). Detrimental effects on constituent wildlife populations present along the Barstow-to-Vegas course resulting from these direct and indirect impacts may contribute to lowered areas carrying capacity and reduced population levels, increased susceptibility of remaining animals to predation, and decreased availability of critical cover as the result of burro collapse, loss of plants, and disturbance or removal of surface soils.

The level of adverse effect on wildlife species and habitats would vary with type of terrain, number and type of participating vehicles, and levels of prior use. Portions of the race course over which previous races have been run should be subjected to comparatively lower levels of adverse impact than those areas which have not been so utilized. Impacts to wildlife resources would also be minimized on those portions of the course which have sustained previously heavy surface disturbance from road grading or regular vehicle use. Highest levels of adverse impacts would occur in areas subjected to minimal previous habitat disturbance, areas which would receive concentrated use (i.e., start, finish, and pit areas), and areas of highest resource sensitivity (i.e., comparatively high density areas of species of special management concern; habitats which contain comparatively high wildlife species density or diversity). Anticipated levels of impact to wildlife species and habitats for various portions of the proposed course are indicated in Table 4-2.

Camping Area

Moderate impact to wildlife would result from increased use levels over an approximately 100-acre portion of the camping area where visitor use would be concentrated. Increased vehicle use over portions of the camping area by race participants travelling between the start and camping area would also contribute to habitat loss. Widely dispersed camping levels over the remaining 860 acres of the designated camping area should not significantly impact wildlife species or habitats. The desert tortoise, a state-protected species currently under Federal status review, is present in this area at densities ranging from 0-to-20 per square mile. No significant impacts are expected to this species within the race camping area due to extremely low densities.

Starting Area

Impacts to wildlife species and habitats present here are expected to range from moderate to heavy due to extremely concentrated vehicle use from warm-ups, spectator parking, and race participants. The entire area has previously sustained moderate-to-heavy surface disturbance from past competitive racing

events. An estimated 880 acres would be adversely affected by this course. Impacts to the desert tortoise, present in estimated densities of 0 to 20 per square mile, would be comparatively low because of the correspondingly low species abundance.

Bomb to Mile 6

Moderate impacts would occur over approximately 18 acres where vehicles would be most concentrated along the course route; lower levels of soil and vegetational impact would occur over an adjacent 54 acres where vehicle use would be widely dispersed. The entire area has sustained moderate surface disturbance from past competitive racing events. Impacts to the desert tortoise, present in densities ranging from 0 to 20 per square mile, is expected to be low.

Mile 6 to Pit 1

Moderate impacts would occur from loss of vegetation and from increased noise levels along a 14-mile portion of the course which travels through mesquite woodland southwest and south of East Cronese Lake, and along a dry wash dominated by desert willow in this same area. Both habitats are known to contain a comparatively higher bird species diversity and abundance than surrounding creosote-dominated plant associations. The Mojave fringe-toed lizard, a specialized species restricted to areas of fine aeolian sand deposits, is also present along this portion of the race course. Impacts are also expected to be moderate over an approximately 8-acre portion of the pit area, where vehicle use would be heavily concentrated. Remaining portions of this course segment would sustain moderate impacts within 15-foot corridors where racing use would be concentrated, and low levels of impact over a bordering band covering about 350 acres over a 31-mile segment where vehicle use would be dispersed.

Option 1

Impacts to wildlife resources are expected to be moderate, due to concentrated vehicle use along a band of 15 feet in width. About 18 acres would experience moderate levels of soil compaction, displacement and vegetation removal. Approximately 103 acres of adjacent lands would receive low levels of impact from widely dispersed vehicle use due to passing. There are no Federally listed, state-listed species present in this area. The desert tortoise is present in densities ranging from 0 to 20 per square mile. Anticipated impacts to this species along this particular segment of the course are expected to be comparatively low.

Pit 1 to Pit 2

Impacts to desert tortoise habitat along the roaded (ca. 12 miles) portions of the course are expected to be light and negligible since little deviation from existing roads is expected. A November race would not adversely affect above-

ground desert tortoises to any extent since they would be underground in their burrows at this time. However, any tortoise burrows proximal to the course, even along roads, run the risk of being crushed and their inhabitants injured or killed. The 11 miles of the course running through desert tortoise habitat which are not on existing roads would receive considerably greater impact. An area 15 feet wide (expected zone of heavy impact) and 11 miles in length equals 20 acres. Coupled with either Pit 2 (at 8 acres) an area of nearly 30 acres within desert tortoise habitat can be expected to receive heavy impact. Most, if not all of the vegetation within this zone would be destroyed or heavily damaged. Topsoils would be pulverized and churned into dust with subsurface soil components being compacted, thus impeding natural revegetation. Burrows would be crushed and their inhabitants injured or killed. The overall effect would be a loss of approximately 30 acres of desert tortoise habitat and a slight reduction in numbers of the Shadow Valley population. The areas outside the 15-foot zone of heavy impact, but within the allowable 100-foot corridor, would receive moderate impact, as described above, but to a lesser degree.

These moderate impact zones along the 11 miles of desert tortoise habitat not on existing roads comprise roughly 113 acrs. The proposed course roughly cuts through the middle of the Shadow Valley desert tortoise habitat.

Alternative Pit 2

Since several hundred acres of land have already sustained moderate to heavy impact, any additional impact to desert tortoise habitat is considered to be light.

Pit 2 to Pit 3

The 5 out of 10 miles of the main course going through desert tortoise habitat (20-50 per square mile) in eastern Shadow Valley and in northern Ivanpah Valley, which are not on existing roads, may be expected to receive heavy impact as described above. The total area computes to approximately 9 acres. Approximately 52 acres outside the zone of heavy impact, but within the allowable 100-foot corridor would receive moderate impact. An additional 1 1/2 miles (out of 4 miles) goes through what is considered prime desert tortoise habitat. This is approximately 3 acres in area. An additional 15 acres outside the zone of heavy impact, but still within the 100 foot corridor would be moderately impacted. The overall loss in desert tortoise habitat would be approximately 12 acres (heavily impacted), 3 of which are located within an area considered to be prime habitat. Sixty-five additional acres of tortoise habitat would be moderately to lightly degraded. Concomitant reductions in desert tortoise populations may also be anticipated.

The 7 miles of the main course which goes through bighorn sheep habitat in the Clark Mountains is all on existing roads, primarily on mining access roads. No direct injury or mortality to bighorn sheep is expected. However, since sheep (as well as mule deer) occur with relative frequency in this part of the Clark Mountains, disturbance to these animals is inevitable. The disturbance created

by the race event would adversely affect the normal movements and behavior of resident bighorn sheep. This is further aggravated by the fact that the main course goes right by a known bighorn sheep water source (Green's Well) and within 3/4 mile of another (big game guzzler). This disturbance would last only for the day of the event, although the effects may carry over for a short time afterwards. The timing of the proposed event (November) is such that disturbance to bighorn sheep would be relatively minimal in that November is after rutting and mating season, precedes lambing season and is not during the critical, hot summer months when bighorn sheep are more closely tied to important water sources.

Option 2

Approximately 10 miles of desert tortoise habitat (20-50 per square mile) in eastern Shadow Valley and in northern Ivanpah Valley would receive heavy impact as described previously. This entails approximately 18 acres of moderately important desert tortoise habitat which would receive heavy impact and another 103 acres being moderately to lightly impacted. No areas identified as prime desert tortoise habitat (50-100 per square mile) would receive any impact.

Some disturbance to bighorn sheep would likely occur in the area of Keany Pass. It is this area through which bighorn sheep pass when moving from the central portion of the Clark Mountains to the northern part of the range. Disturbance to bighorn sheep in Keany Pass is judged to have less of an effect than in the area around Green's Well and Coliseum Gorge, through which the main course runs. No injury or mortality to bighorn sheep is anticipated.

Option 3

No impact to desert tortoise habitat and only minor impact to desert bighorn sheep.

Option 4

No impact to desert tortoise or to desert bighorn sheep habitats or populations.

The main route and all three alternates would allow for some disturbance to raptors. Foraging individuals in the area where the race was being run would be frightened from the area and forced to forage elsewhere either into sub-optimum or unfamiliar foraging habitat or into territories of other raptors, where competition for prey animals would be greater. This symptom would likely last for only the day of the event or perhaps for several days thereafter. It is not likely that any birds would be forced permanently out of their foraging range. A November event would not affect courting, breeding, nesting, or fledging activities. No listed species would be affected.

Table 4-3 Relative Impacts to Wildlife Resources

Race Section	Environmental Consequences						Species/Habitats of Special Concern	Affected Acreage (Est.)	Impact Level**
	1	2	Criteria*		5	6			
			3	4					
Camping Area		X				X	Desert tortoise (0-20)	860 100	Low Moderate
Start Cone		X				X	Desert tortoise (0-20)	0 880	Low Moderate
"Bomb" to Mile 6		X				X	Desert tortoise (0-20)	54 18	Low Moderate
Mile 6 to Pit 1		X	X		X	X	Desert tortoise (0-20); Mojave fringe-toed lizard; Desert willow/mesquite wash	348 26	Low Moderate
Alternate 1		X					Desert tortoise (0-20)	103 18	Low Moderate
Pit 1 to Pit 2		X					Desert tortoise (0-20)	267 24	Low Moderate
					X		Desert tortoise (20-50)	145 113 28	Low Moderate High
Pit 2 to Pit 3		X					Desert tortoise (0-20)	103	Low
		X			X		Desert tortoise (20-50)	61 52 9	Low Moderate High
		X		X	X		Desert tortoise (50-100)	30 15 3	Low Moderate High
Pit 2 to Pit 3		X	X		X		Desert bighorn sheep	13	Moderate
					X		Raptors	22	Low
Alternate 2		X					Desert tortoise (0-20)	113 8	Low Moderate
		X			X		Desert tortoise (20-50)	103 18	Moderate High
		X	X		X		Desert bighorn sheep	7	Low
					X		Raptors	15	Low
Alternate 3		X					Desert tortoise (0-20)	49 5	Low Moderate
		X	X		X		Desert bighorn sheep	2	Low
					X		Raptors	9	Low
Alternate 4		X					Desert tortoise (0-20)	24 4	Low Low
							Raptors		

*Criteria: 1. Presence of federally or state-listed wildlife species.
 2. Presence of BLM Sensitive" listed species (California).
 3. Presence of wildlife species of limited distribution.
 4. Uniqueness or rarity of habitat.
 5. Comparatively high diversity or density of species.
 6. Evidence of past moderate to heavy vehicle use along portions of the course.

**Impact rating levels are a function of estimated levels of anticipated disturbance to wildlife species and/or habitats. Low impacts are expected to be very widely dispersed or low intensities of use. Moderate impacts are expected through concentrated use in previously disturbed areas, or use in previously undisturbed areas where species or habitats of special concern are present, but expected levels of use will not be concentrated. High levels of impact are expected where concentrated use will occur in sensitive habitats, relatively high density areas of species of special management concern, or where severe reductions in an area's carrying capacity may be expected.

Wilderness

Until Congress actually designates an area of public land as wilderness, all areas under wilderness review will be managed so that wilderness values will not be impaired. The Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP; BLM 1979) defines an action as non-impairing if it can meet three non-impairment criteria, referred to below.

There is specific guidance in the IMP for organized ORV events. Such events may be allowed to pass through WSAs on existing ways and trails so long as the BLM has determined that such uses satisfy the non-impairment criteria. Participants will be restricted to designated ways and trails, which will be appropriately flagged. If the BLM determines that a race can and will be carefully controlled to ensure that it fully satisfies the non-impairment criteria, the use of cross-country segments may be approved.

The only WSAs that will be discussed are WSAs 242 and 225, since the course crosses through these for several miles. Wilderness Study Areas 228, 222, and 227 are not at issue, since the course follows only their boundaries. The impacts to the WSAs would be minimal and would not constrain the Secretary of the Interior's decision with regards to the areas suitability as wilderness.

In the following paragraphs, the non-impairment criteria are stated, followed by comments on the course's ability to meet the criteria in WSA 242 and 225.

- (a) It would be temporary (BLM 1979, p. 18). The race would only be run one day each year over the part of the course going through WSA 242 and 225. If an area through which the course passes should be designated as wilderness by Congress, the race would be stopped or rerouted. The portion of each WSA affected by the course has been recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation by the Desert Plan.
- (b) Any temporary impacts that would be caused by the activity must, at a minimum, be capable of being reclaimed to a condition of being substantially unnoticeable in the wilderness study area as a whole by the time the Secretary of the Interior is scheduled to send his recommendations on that area to the President.

Even if no action should be taken for reclamation, the disturbances an annual race would create would still be substantially unnoticeable in the WSAs affected (see BLM 1979, page 32 for a definition of the term "Substantially Unnoticeable"). The conclusion that the impacts of annual races would be substantially unnoticeable is based on the following observations:

1. In the initial 6 miles of the main course in WSA 242, and in option 3 through WSA 225, the course would be in a wide, well

defined wash system which is capable of being easily reclaimed. Past courses have followed these washes and impacts of the past courses are not evident. This implies a high likelihood of natural erasure of track segments.

2. In WSA 242, option 1, and WSA 225, option 2, the course follows as closely as possible routes used in past Barstow-to-Vegas courses. Signs of past impacts are insignificant, implying a high likelihood of natural erasure of track segments. These past impacts were not considered significant during the wilderness inventory.
 3. For 1 3/4 mile in WSA 242 and along option 4 in WSA 225, the proposed course follows well defined routes of travel. The route in WSA 242 was at one time a maintained haul road. In WSA 225, option 4 follows a well-defined four-wheel drive type route. Use of either of these routes will not affect wilderness values.
- (c) When the activity is terminated, the area's wilderness values must not have been degraded so far, compared with the area's values for other purposes, as to significantly constrain the Secretary's recommendation with respect to the area's suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

The type of use being proposed is such that it can be altered in the future to fit changing circumstances. If it is determined that use of the course through areas under wilderness study has, by itself, seriously altered the use of the area toward motorized use and away from wilderness preservation, the course could be changed. However, the Desert Plan has recommended all portions of WSAs traversed by the course as unsuitable for wilderness designation for reasons other than use for a motorcycle race.

Reject Amendment

Assumptions

- Protest trail rides will continue to occur, at least for the next few years.
- An average of 500 participants will be involved.
- Generally, past Barstow-to-Vegas routes and existing roads will be used.
- No overall organization to trail rides (i.e., private landowners' permission will not be obtained; flagging, if any, will be sporadic.)

Air

Reduced number would result in a commensurate decrease in suspended particulates. Federal and state standards would still be violated.

Soils

There would be less total impact (e.g., degree of soil compaction). Less controls would allow a greater chance of free play and previously undisturbed areas may be impacted.

Cultural Resources

Impacts which would occur as a result of the proposed action would not occur if the amendment were rejected. Uncontrolled trail rides would create the potential for significant cultural resource damage with no opportunity for mitigation.

Vegetation

The continued running of trail rides without appropriate mitigation would undoubtedly result in a greater loss of vegetative resources than would be expected under more controlled circumstances of a permitted event.

Wilderness

Trail rides have not impaired wilderness qualities in any of the WSA's discussed. Trail rides have used several different routes and tend to stay on roads or old courses. The chance of impairment is lessened by the smaller numbers involved.

Wildlife

Impact to wildlife would be lessened if the amendment were rejected, given the assumptions above. However, trail rides would and have yielded impacts to wildlife that would not occur with a permitted race. Without any control, riders could stray into sensitive areas causing unnecessary adverse impacts. There can also be no mitigation with an unpermitted event. The door is left open to allow unnecessary resource damage.

AMENDMENT SEVEN:
RASOR OPEN AREA

Alternative A: Expand to West

Cultural Resources

At least seven recorded archaeological sites would be subject to impacts, including petroglyphs, which are known to have sacred significance to Native Americans. Among the sites is a turquoise quarry with petroglyphs, trails, and stone tools. Petroglyphs could also be favored targets for vandalism and illegal collection. In addition, an unknown number of unrecorded sites would be adversely impacted. Levels of impact could range from disturbance to destruction. Heavy vehicle use of the area over a long period of time would probably result in total or near total destruction of all the archaeological materials present.

Impacts can also be expected in the adjoining Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC due to spillover from the open area. Over 50 archaeological sites have been recorded in the ACEC. Sites include temporary camps, ground figures, petroglyphs, milling stations, lithic scatters, and pottery. At least one highly significant site within the ACEC has already suffered damage from off-road vehicle use. Maintaining the closure of the ACEC would be more difficult.

Wildlife

Expansion of the open area would result in reductions in number of species, overall wildlife abundance, and total biotics (Bury et al. 1977). These result from increases in direct mortality due to running over individuals, disturbances due to noise, crushing animals in burrows and destruction of vegetation used for food and cover.

Disturbance to the ponds at Zzyzx Springs, containing Mojave Chub, would probably not occur as they are fenced. No other species of special significance occur in the proposed open area.

Motorized Vehicles

A larger open area would expand opportunities for motorcycle free-play activities. The present size of open area does not provide enough space for adequate management of competitive and non-competitive ORV-related activities. Expansion of the area would allow for a multitude of activities without compromising opportunities for non-ORV related activities. Present use is approximately 7,000 visitor use days annually.

However, expansion would detract from opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. If expanded into Class L areas, the amendment would encourage higher use levels than the low to moderate currently provided for under Class L guidelines.

Visual Resources

The existing open area lies in a location which has been rated high in visual resource values, and recommended for visual resource management (VRM) Class II. Expansion to the west would encompass more Class II and Class III, or moderate, areas. Activities in the expanded open area would degrade visual resources and would, therefore, be incompatible with VRM class objectives.

Soils

Expanding the Razor Open Area would increase the area in which soil impacts (soil compaction, some increase in erosion, and dust production) would be allowed. It is difficult to say if this would actually cause a greater quantity of soil impacts however. If the same number of vehicles used the open area, soil impacts would be more dispersed, but there might not actually be a larger quantity of substantially impacted soil. If more vehicles used the area, there may be a greater quantity of heavily impacted soil.

Alternative B: Expand to East

Cultural Resources

Impacts would be the same as those of Alternative A except that the density of cultural materials here is higher so that more would be damaged or lost. There are approximately 55 recorded archaeological sites in this area. These sites include temporary campsites, projectile points, stone and bone tools, shell beads, pottery, and milling stones. Opening the area would also increase indirect adverse impacts on the ACEC.

Acceptance of either expansion would result in severe adverse impacts on portions of the Mojave Road, an important historic resource. The road probably could not be properly maintained under conditions of unrestricted vehicle use and marker cairns would probably be destroyed in time. Use of the area for unrestricted vehicle use would also detract from the recreational and historic experience sought by those members of the public interested in retracing the route of the historic road.

Wildlife

See Alternative A.

Motorized Vehicles

Expansion to the east would result in expanded opportunities for both organized and free-play ORV use. It would also result in a greater use of the area by other motorized recreation users. However, it would degrade identified and recognized opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation use.

It would encourage higher recreation use levels of this area than currently permitted under Class L guidelines which allow for low to moderate use.

Soils

See Alternative A.

Visual Resources

Expansion to the east would impair visual resources which are rated as high. This rating is compatible with the present land use class L, but would be incompatible with Class I.

Alternative C: Close Raso Open Area

Cultural Resources

Closing the open area and changing the classification to Class M would reduce the difficulty of enforcing the closure of the ACEC. It would also reduce the indirect impacts currently occurring on the resources within the ACEC.

Wildlife

Closure of the open area would result in the maintenance of wildlife habitat, species diversity, and animal abundance.

Motorized Vehicles

Although ORV free-play activities would be restricted, organized ORV use opportunities would be maintained. Free play use would be limited to existing routes of travel.

Soils

Effects would be similar to those impacts discussed for Alternative A. Little impact would result from driving on the sand dunes to the east of the present open area, although frequent creation of fresh short-lasting tracks on the dunes would result in continuous visual impacts. Driving in silty locations on the playa and on playa margins would create considerable dust in the area. Compaction, some increased erosion and long-lasting visible impacts such as trails would be produced by driving in areas of naturally cohesive soil as opposed to dunes.

Visual Resources

Closing the open area and changing from Class I to Class M would have a beneficial impact since the permitted activities would be more compatible with the high visual qualities present in the area.

Alternative D: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

There would probably be a steady increase in current problems. More and more spill-over use of the closed area would occur, resulting in ever-increasing impacts on the cultural resources within the ACEC. Increased effort would be required to enforce the closure of the ACEC.

Motorized Vehicles

Opportunities for free-play use would continue within the open area, and competitive ORV events could utilize both the open area and, within Class M and L restrictions, the surrounding region. However, this policy fails to recognize current free-play use patterns occurring outside the open area. Existing use patterns would be discouraged rather than enhanced.

Soils

Existing impacts would continue. If the present boundary proves unmanageable, a spillover of use could result in the same impacts described for Alternative A.

AMENDMENT EIGHT: OPEN DRY LAKES

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Silver, Coyote and Soda Dry Lakes: Allowing vehicle access only on approved routes of travel would result in direct adverse impacts on archaeological materials. Indirect impacts might be caused by vehicles straying from the approved route. The shore area is especially critical for cultural resources. The entire shorelines of Soda and Coyote Dry Lakes are rated as having high sensitivity for cultural resources. There are approximately a dozen sites around Silver Dry Lake; 50 percent of the shoreline has very high cultural sensitivity, and 50 percent has high sensitivity.

Superior Dry Lake: A small high sensitivity area at the south end of the lake may be impacted, although most of the shoreline is of low sensitivity.

Harper Dry Lake: A high sensitivity area at the east end of the lake may be impacted.

Wildlife

No significant impacts on wildlife habitat or species are anticipated in the Soda, Silver, and Coyote Dry Lakes. No significant impacts are anticipated on Harper Dry Lake if off-road vehicle activities are restricted from all marsh areas. The Superior Dry Lake and Harper Dry Lake playas are located within sensitive wildlife areas; Superior Dry Lake is located within one of three recognized core population areas for the state-listed Mohave ground squirrel, whereas the western portion of Harper Dry Lake is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern utilized by a great variety of birds. Access to any portion of each playa is currently provided by several existing dirt roads. Allowing for vehicle use across these playas greatly increases the chance of disturbance of wildlife species and habitats located on previously undisturbed areas immediately adjacent.

Livestock Grazing

Superior Valley Allotment is on Superior Dry Lake. This ephemeral allotment is used for 3 to 4 months per year. No significant impacts are anticipated.

Motorized Vehicles

Soda, Silver, and Coyote Dry Lakes: Acceptance would clarify existing closures and permit activities that are now technically restricted due to the definition of a closed area. It would enhance certain motorized vehicle uses of the dry lake surface yet restrict these uses to those under permit from BLM.

However, it would degrade non-motorized recreation activities that are totally independent of motorized vehicle use on the dry lake surface itself (e.g., bird study, photography, etc.)

Superior and Harper Dry Lakes: Land sailing would be enhanced, while at the same time through-traffic across the lakes would be permitted. However, creating a "limited" ORV area designation may confuse some recreation users.

Soils

Allowing limited vehicle use across lakes will produce some dust and some additional evidence of trails, but the overall impact on soils would be low because of the limited travel and localized extent of approved routes.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

The only impacts that would occur would be, as at present, due to unauthorized vehicle use of the lakes.

Motorized Vehicles

Superior and Harper Dry Lakes: Rejection would enforce and enhance non-motorized use of the dry lake as long as those same users did not drive motor vehicles onto the lake surface for any reason. "Closed" area designations for these two dry lakes would not allow even the users for whom these closures were set up for to drive to their camping site across the lake. Closed area designation also does not permit other users to cross the lakes on existing access routes.

Soda, Silver, and Coyote Dry Lakes: Although non-motorized recreation opportunities would be maintained (such as opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation), a type of closed area designation would exist that would prohibit recreation uses having little or no impact on natural resources when conducted under permit.

AMENDMENT NINE:

AFTON CANYON GRAZING CLASS CHANGE

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Archaeological values in the allotment would be subjected to increased impacts from livestock grazing. The affects of grazing on archaeological sites are not well understood or clearly documented, although personal observation by archaeologists in the Desert District indicates clearly that grazing animals do damage sites. Standing historic structures such as fences and stone walls have been collapsed by grazing animals. Scatters of surface artifacts have also been impacted, artifacts and features damaged and their relationships and contexts destroyed. However, the degree to which this type of activity may damage a site or the cumulative impacts of long term grazing on archeological materials would vary, depending upon intensity of livestock use.

Wildlife

Allotment contains portions of the Cady Mountains which provide habitat for an estimated population of 25 bighorn sheep. The Cady Mountains also provide habitat for raptors. Prairie falcon and Golden eagle eyries are known to be

present. There would be a decrease in forage available to bighorn. Although the allocations for livestock consider bighorn, herd growth may be impeded. Increases in livestock numbers would also increase conflicts for water.

Livestock Grazing

Although changing classification would not by itself increase livestock use, preference would be 2059 AUMs, based on recent field examinations. This represents a significant increase over the 359 AUM five-year ephemeral average identified by the Desert Plan. However, since the ephemeral allocation would also be raised to this level if the change were not made, the proposed change is actually no more than an administrative adjustment to bring BLM paperwork in line with the on-the-ground circumstances. The change would also allow the operator to borrow operating money from financial institutions, which he cannot now do under his ephemeral lease.

The allotment includes portions of recommended non-suitable Wilderness Study Areas 251 and 252. Preference would not be granted until after Congress decides on wilderness status. Until that time, AUMs would be allocated on a temporary non-renewable basis.

Wilderness

Changing class would not by itself impair the suitability of WSAs 251 and 252.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Impacts on cultural resources and wildlife would be as described for alternative A since even if the allotment remains ephemeral, livestock use would be increased to approximately 2000 AUMs based on recent field evaluations. However, the operator would continue to have difficulties borrowing operating money from financial institutions due to the ephemeral classification of the allotment.

AMENDMENT TEN: EXPAND AFTON CANYON GRAZING ALLOTMENT

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Expansion of the allotment would subject cultural resources to the east of the presently grazed area to impacts from livestock grazing. Approximately five percent of this area is classified as having very high sensitivity for cultural values, and 20 percent has high sensitivity. There are over 20 recorded archaeological sites in the area; Coombs (1978b) predicted a site density of 3 per square mile in valley bottoms and 4.2 in mountain areas. The area is adjacent to the Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC.

Wildlife

The proposed expansion includes portions of the Cady Mountains which provide habitat for an estimated population of 25 bighorn sheep. The expansion area is probably used by bighorn passing between mountain ranges. The Cady Mountains also provide foraging habitat for golden eagles and raptors.

Expansion would result in increased competition between bighorn and cattle for forage, space, and water. This may cause the continuation of past declines in herd numbers. Overall wildlife density and biomass would be reduced due to loss of forage.

Livestock Grazing

The amendment would allow the operator to increase his operation by 64,000 acres of public land and 38,000 acres of lease land from Southern Pacific Railroad and state lands. A more thorough inventory will be completed if this amendment is accepted, but current estimates are for 1200 AUMs perennial forage allocation and another 200 AUMs possible in good years ephemeral forage allocation. This increase use would allow the operator to increase use of the allotment by 50 percent.

Most of the area lies within recommended non-suitable WSAs 251 and 252. Preference would not be allowed until after Congress determines wilderness status. Until that time, AUMs would be allocated on a temporary, non-renewable basis.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

There would be no direct adverse impacts on cultural values from grazing, other than damage caused by livestock wandering in from adjoining lands.

Wildlife

Present allocations of all existing forage to wildlife will continue. Bighorn populations could be managed without competition for critical water and space.

Livestock Grazing

No change in the present operation would occur. The expansion would not have been crucial to the viability of this operation. Therefore, the only thing foregone would be the rancher's opportunity to expand and increase income.

AMENDMENT ELEVEN:
CRONESE LAKE GRAZING CLASS CHANGE

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Archaeological values in the allotment would be subjected to increased impacts from livestock grazing, as described for amendment 9. Most sensitive to increased impact would be the shorelines of both East and West Cronese Lake. Here, site density is very high. The area has been the focus of a major archaeological research project (Drover, 1981). The Cronese Lake site complex is extremely important to the archaeology of the California Desert in terms of information yield, and has been designated an ACEC. The allotment is about 30 percent very high and 30 percent high cultural sensitivity.

Wildlife

The allotment overlaps transient bighorn range in the Soda Mountains. West Cronese Lake provides valuable winter habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl.

The proposed change would increase competition between cattle and bighorn sheep for forage, space, and water. Decreased forage and cover would be available for other wildlife species as well.

Livestock Grazing

Use would increase to 1508 AUMs, significantly higher than the 1019 AUM five-year ephemeral average identified by the Desert Plan. However, this increase would not be due to the classification change, but rather would be based on recent field examinations. Impacts of this change and of recommended non-suitable WSA 242, which covers most of the allotment, would be as described for Amendment 9.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Impacts would be as described for rejecting Amendment 9.

AMENDMENT TWELVE:
GRANITE MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT ENLARGEMENT

Alternative A: Enlarge as a Perennial/Ephemeral Allotment

Cultural Resources

Impacts in general would be as described for Amendment 10. Seventy-one archae-

ological sites within six areas of high or very high sensitivity have been recorded. The area is a traditional collecting area for the Chemehuevi. In addition, the Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC would be subject to impact. This ACEC is already being impacted by vehicle activity spilling over from the Rasor

Adding or extending pipelines, which would cause surface disturbance, would have severe adverse impacts upon any cultural resources on the line. These impacts would have to be mitigated. Impacts to some sites of significance to Native Americans, such as rock cairns, are not entirely tangible and cannot always be mitigated.

Wildlife

Expansion of the allotment would impact habitat for bighorn sheep in the Bristol and Old Dad Mountains. The expansion area contains extensive transient habitat for bighorn sheep in the Bristol Mountains. The Old Dad Mountains, on the edge of the expansion, contain a small bighorn herd (five animals). Prairie falcons and Golden eagles use the area for foraging.

Grazing would increase competition for forage and space and decrease forage availability for bighorn sheep. There would be an overall decrease in cover and food available to other wildlife species.

Livestock Grazing

Preference would increase by 2304 AUMs. This expansion would result in a 50 percent increase in operator income. The operator would be able to borrow additional money based on the increased preference. However, the expansion area includes portions of recommended non-suitable WSAs 250, 251A, and 256. Preference would not be allocated until after Congress decides on the status of the WSAs. Until that time, AUMs would be allocated on a temporary, non-renewable basis.

Alternative B: Enlarge as an Ephemeral Allotment

Cultural Resources

Impacts would occur, but would be lower than for Alternative A due to lower grazing levels. Impacts caused by pipeline construction would be as described for Alternative A.

Wildlife

Impacts would be less severe than those anticipated for Alternative A, due to reduced allocations to cattle.

Livestock Grazing

Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative A, except that the operator's ability to borrow would not be enhanced. Grazing increases for ephemeral forage would be approximately the same as increases which would

Adding or extending pipelines, which would cause surface disturbance, would have severe adverse impacts upon any cultural resources on the line. These impacts would have to be mitigated. Impacts to some sites of significance to Native Americans, such as rock cairns, are not entirely tangible and cannot always be mitigated.

Wildlife

Expansion of the allotment would impact extensive transient habitat for bighorn sheep in the Bristol Mountains. Bighorn conflicts could also occur with a small herd in the Old Dad Mountains.

Grazing would decrease forage availability for bighorn sheep. There would also be increase competition for forage and space. There would be an overall decrease in cover and food available to other wildlife species.

Livestock Grazing

Preference would increase by 2304 AUMs. This expansion would result in a 50 percent increase in operator income. The operator would be able to borrow additional money based on the increased preference.

Alternative B: Enlarge as an Ephemeral Allotment

Cultural Resources

Impacts would occur, but would be lower than for Alternative A due to lower grazing levels. Impacts caused by pipeline construction would be as described for Alternative A.

Wildlife

Impacts will be less severe than those anticipated for Alternative A due to reduced allocations to cattle.

Livestock Grazing

Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative A, except that the operator's ability to borrow would not be enhanced. Grazing increases for ephemeral forage would be approximately the same as increases which would be granted for a perennial allotment.

Alternative C: Reject Amendment (No Action)

No change in the present operation would occur. The expansion would not have been crucial to the viability of this operation. Therefore, the only thing foregone would be the rancher's opportunity to expand and increase income.

AMENDMENT THIRTEEN: KESLO DUNES GRAZING CLASS CHANGE

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Any increase in grazing would increase the level of impacts to cultural resources. See Amendment 10 for a general discussion of the impacts of grazing on cultural resources.

Wildlife

The proposed change would result in increased damage by livestock on perennial dune vegetation. This vegetation is essential to the maintenance of the restricted and sensitive species found on the Dunes. Nine endemic insects are found only in these dunes. They include eight species of beetles and the Jerusalem cricket (*Ammopelmatus keloensis*). The dunes also provide habitat for Kangaroo Rats and the Mojave fringe-toed lizard.

Livestock Grazing

The operator will benefit from the approval of this amendment for financial reasons (such as the loaning of operating money). The dunes portion of the allotment was redesignated ephemeral in 1981 with the intention of protecting the dunes from livestock use, not because of a lack of perennial forage species to base a allocation on. In terms of use on the allotments, this resulted in a decrease from 4716 AUMs to 4003 AUMs. In reality, the closure is not enforceably short of fencing the dunes. This amendment would reinstate the original use levels. Although this area is within the recommended suitable portion of WSA 250, the proposed use would be a return to levels which existed at the time of passage of FLPMA, and therefore, represent a grandfathered use.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources and Wildlife

Impacts would continue at their current (undocumented) level.

Livestock Grazing

The impact of rejection would fall mostly on BLM. There are no natural barriers to preclude livestock use. The high cost to fence the entire dune system precludes management of this area as ephemeral separate from the adjacent perennial range. Therefore, the existing management goals could probably not be met.

AMENDMENT FOURTEEN: GRAZING CRITERIA CHANGE

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Where increases in grazing resulted, there would be an increase in the general impacts on cultural resources described in the Amendment 10 analyses.

Livestock Grazing

This amendment would affect the grazing program in many ways. First it would remove the rule-of-thumb guidelines for determining the available amount of suitable range that assures proper utilization of forage plant species adjacent to water sources and on the gentle slopes of ranges. While the intent of the wording of the amendment is to allow professional range conservationists to determine the suitability of rangeland on a case-by-case basis, in reality, this working familiarity with an area takes times to learn. If the multi-stage inventory method indicated that an AUM increase was justified, current policy would be to wait until monitoring studies established that under-utilization is occurring on forage species. Based on the proposed policy, seven of the 53 allotments could possibly receive an increase in 1286 AUMs after approval of this amendment. Two of these allotments would received no further AUM increases if proposed FY82 amendments affecting these allotments are approved this year. Table 4-1 illustrates the changes which would occur on these seven allotments.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Without this amendment there would be very little impact on current livestock operations in the California desert. Only a 1391 AUM increase would result if readjustment of Desert Plan calculations were made. The rangeland suit-

TABLE 4-4
Allotment Allocation Disregarding Slope and Distance From Water Exclusions

	VALLEY WELLS	RUDNICK COMMON	WALKER PASS COMMON	LAST CHANCE	PAHRUMP	JEAN LAKE	GRANITE MOUNTAIN
	Desert Plan	Desert Plan	Desert Plan	Desert Plan	Desert Plan	Desert Plan	Desert Plan
	Proposed Amendment 14	Proposed Amendment 14	Proposed Amendment 14	Proposed Amendment 14	Proposed Amendment 14	Proposed Amendment 14	Proposed Amendment 14
Total Survey	18798	19222	14791	16981	557	301	110,959
Renewable Forage	8798	9222	4791	6981	557	301	10,959
Minus these items:							
-Slope Exclusion 50 - 90%	511	931	272	691	86	4	1,776
-Distance from Water Exclusion	1264			11952			581
-Low Production Exclusion	342						3,274
-Low Condition Cisas Exclusion	1670	12073	11130	11085	118	139	
- Wildlife Allocation			21	18			142
-Wild Horse and Burro Allocation	371			180			
- Other ¹							1,183
- Potential Livestock Forage Allocation	14640	16218	13368	5038	353	297	4,003
-Pre-Desert Plan Allocation	4743	126210	17242	3267	550	312	4,716
-Recommended Livestock Allocation	14640	16218	13368	3267 ²	353	297	4,003
Amendment 14 would Restore These AUMs to Allocation	103	698	204	212	65	4	713
							11286 ³

1 Proposed FY 82 Amendment #13 would Increase AUM Allocation to Pre-Desert Plan Allocation, by Including 1183 AUMs from Kelso Dunes.

2 Potential Livestock Allocation Greater than Pre-Desert Plan Allocation will not be Authorized until after Monitoring Justifies Under Utilization.

3 1286 AUMs Excluded by Desert Plan for Slope and Distance from Water Consideration (Granite Mountain not included).

ability criteria developed by the Washington Office was based on recommendations from BLM range staff (in Denver Service Center and field staff) and range scientists outside of the BLM. These criteria are strictly rule-of-thumb parameters for local area office range conservationists to use in their determination of range suitability.

During the Desert Plan development, area range conservationists were asked to determine the distance from water suitable for grazing based on their professional experience. The slope criteria was based on computer exclusion during the multi-stage remote sensing inventory. It is the professional judgment of BLM range personnel that within the CDCA, gentler slopes and areas adjacent to waters are receiving proper utilization under this criteria, and that these standards actually may be somewhat liberal during the majority of the year.

AMENDMENT FIFTEEN:
NEW ACEC AT BIG AND LITTLE SAND SPRING

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Creation of an ACEC at Big and Little Sand Springs and production of a management plan would facilitate protection of the cultural resources here. The entire area is rated as having very high sensitivity for cultural resources. Both prehistoric and historic remains have been recorded here, with the historic remains probably of more significance in terms of integrity. The cultural materials are already being heavily damaged by burros and cattle that use the springs. These impacts could be alleviated by the proper management prescriptions, which could tie in well with measures to protect the habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife

The ACEC designation would provide a mechanism for resolving serious conflicts between burros, livestock, and wildlife. Big Sand and Little Sand Springs are important water sources for a variety of wildlife species. Water sources in this vicinity are rare and extremely critical. The springs are used by bighorn sheep and numerous migrating birds. Management facilities developed under the ACEC plan would protect the side from continued trampling and excessive removal of vegetation by burros and unauthorized livestock. The reliability of water and its availability for wildlife and livestock would be significantly improved.

Wilderness

The ACEC would be located within WSAs 118 (North Death Valley) and 119 (Little Sand Spring). Designation of the ACECs would not impair wilderness suitability.

Vegetation

Any protective plan will enhance the existence of the rare Astragalus lentiginos var. resquimetralis plant. Burro reduction would be a major element in reducing deterioration impacts on vegetation.

Wild Horses and Burros

This area is not proposed as a burro management area, so there would be no significant adverse impacts on the burro management program.

Livestock Grazing

The Last Chance Allotment would suffer some long-term loss of AUMs from fencing of these springs, but as long as water was provided, most impact would be low.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Degradation of cultural materials present at the springs would continue due to burro and livestock activity. Illegal collection of artifacts could occur.

Wildlife

Rejection of the amendment would result in continued degradation of native vegetation and water quality and reliability.

AMENDMENT SIXTEEN: RELOCATE/RENAME ACEC 36

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

The new ACEC would be located at the only known site where Eriophyllum exists, thus protecting this rare species (California Native Plant Society list). A proposed sheep fence would protect plants from trampling. The area is designated "existing routes of travel only", so there would be little impact on recreation. Use of the Gravel Hills allotment would be reduced, but by only about 3 to 4 AUMs annually.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

If the proposal is rejected, this plant may be extirpated completely. The

area was grazed and trailed by sheep during the flowering and seeding season, 1982. The largest population may have been completely destroyed by bedding this herd of sheep on a critical site. All evidence of the plants were gone when the site was inspected 3 weeks later. Dried plants were found at the other two sites by this inspection.

AMENDMENT SEVENTEEN:
ENLARGE HALLORAN WASH ACEC

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Accepting the amendment would increase a major complex of archaeological sites, including a fine array of petroglyphs. These petroglyphs are among the best-preserved and most diverse in the California Desert. The proximity of these petroglyphs to a road and the fact that they are being vandalised indicates the need for a management plan to spell out adequate protective measures. Petroglyphs, due to their high visibility and aesthetic value, are particularly vulnerable to theft and vandalism.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

Rejecting the amendment would result in impacts continuing at their present level, particularly since the petroglyphs are so easily accessible from the road. Theft and vandalism would continue to occur.

AMENDMENT EIGHTEEN:
EAST MOJAVE SCENIC AREA BOUNDARY FENCE

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Removing the scenic area designation from the Clark Mountain portion of the East Mojave Scenic Area (EMSA) would have no direct effects on any of the resources in the area. No multiple-use class guidelines would change, and neither of the existing ACECs (Clark Mountain and Mountain Pass Dinosaur Trackway) would be affected. The change involves approximately 10 percent of the EMSA; the area to be changed is evenly divided between Class M and Class L. What would occur would be the removal of "scenic area" designation from an area which contains, among other facilities, Molycorp's existing rare earth mining operation, and a proposed site for the Ivanpah/Cal Coal 1500-MW power generation facility.

Preparation of activity plans for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation, and other programs within the scenic area will be undertaken under the general guidance of the East Mojave National Scenic Area Management Philosophy, published in the Federal Register (Vol. 46, No 160) on August 19, 1981.

Removal of scenic area designation from the Clark and Ivanpah Mountains will result in these areas being outside the zone to which this policy applies. While not intended as a new layer of guidelines or regulations, the management philosophy states that BLM will "give the Desert Plan implementation, especially ACEC protection, highest priority in the East Mojave National Scenic Area." The philosophy also states that developments associated with Bureau activity plans "will be limited, made inobstructive, or mitigated so their impact on visual resources is minimal or not at all." Although this management approach will not necessarily change with the removal of designation, management would not be bound to it.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

Since the East Mojave National Scenic Area designation does not represent a special land classification, withdrawal or segregation, the designation does not affect processing of mining plans of operation. In the preamble to the final regulations (45 FR 230, 11/26/80, p. 78906), the following statement is made:

"One comment suggested that the Bureau of Land Management require harmony with visual resources. The Bureau agrees that this should be done but only to the extent practicable. However, the provision covering visual resources has been deleted from this section of the final rulemaking because it is covered under the section relating to prevention of undue or unnecessary degradation".

Therefore, mining operations would neither benefit nor suffer from either retention or removal of the scenic area designation.

AMENDMENT NINETEEN: RAND MOUNTAINS

Alternative A: Change from Class M to Class I

The guidelines for vehicle access in Class I are the same as Class M (existing routes are open unless designated closed) with the addition of allowable open areas. If an open area for vehicle play was established, such use would adversely impact a small number of prehistoric sites. Many historic sites, both recorded and not recorded, would be impacted not only by vehicle use but also by increased human access. This could potentially result in increased vandalism and theft. Historic artifacts are highly prized for their aesthetic and monetary value by antique collectors and others, and any increase in access or use would increase the amount of impact upon the resource. Off-road use would also adversely impact traditional Native American collection areas by destroying plants or plant habitats.

Wildlife

Due to the similarity in guidelines between Classes M and I, no significant change in impacts is anticipated unless the area is designated "open" for ORV free-play. However, there would be a significant decrease in the emphasis placed on mitigation of impacts from various activities (CDCA Plan, p. 13). This change in management objectives may result in some degradation of critical wildlife habitat. This is an apparent contradiction to the area's designation as the Western Mojave Desert crucial habitat (Wildlife Habitat Management Area). The area is highly crucial Desert Tortoise habitat with very high population densities (greater than 250 per square mile). The area contains 16 water developments for wildlife in the Rand Mountains (replacement value about \$80,000). The Class I guidelines could not be overridden by the plan for the wildlife habitat management area.

Livestock Grazing

Placing this region in Class I can only lead to further long-term depletion of livestock forage due to lack of any management of use areas.

Motorized Vehicles

Change Rand from M to I. This area is one of five major ORV use areas in the CDCA. This use has been actively encouraged, but resource protection cannot be ignored. These recreation uses would be enhanced by the class change. However, there is now a draft Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for this area that is out for comment that closes some of the most damaging routes of travel, while still establishing recreation as a major use. The RAMP would resolve major management problems and would be more effective than a class change.

Minerals

No impact.

Visual Resources

Most of this area is rated as moderate in visual resource quality and would be managed by VRM Class III guidelines. The intensive use occurring in Class I would be incompatible with this VRM class and would degrade visual quality.

Alternative B: Change from Class M to Class L

Cultural Resources

Alternative B would provide for increased protection of cultural resources,

particularly collection areas and highly vulnerable historic resources, from inadvertant damage or deliberate vandalism or theft. Changing the area to Class L and enforcing the change would adequately protect cultural resources here.

Wildlife

The proposed change from Class M to Class L would result in a significant reduction in wildlife habitat degradation. The change in management objectives as reflected in the Class Guidelines will result in an increased emphasis on the protection of critical resources. Since habitat management plans (HMPs) must work within the restrictions of the Class Guidelines, the change would provide the approrite mechanisms for use in the Western Mojave Desert HMP. Specifically, the impacts due to off-road vehicle activity could be controlled through the route designation program, enhancing management of both desert tortoise and upland game habitat.

Motorized Vehicles

Changing from Class M to L would displace some 100,000 visitor use days to other areas. This would cause severe overcrowding and reduce recreation opportunities and user satisfaction. BLM has directed ORV use from other areas to the Rand open area (see above discussion of draft RAMP). This Plan would resolve resource conflicts more effectively than a change in class.

Minerals

If Amendment 2 (revision and minerals guidelines) is not accepted, a 30-day public review period would be mandatory, possibly slowing processing of locatable and leasable minerals actions, while not affecting saleable minerals. If Amendment 2 is accepted, there would be no effect on processing mineral action.

Alternative C: Reject Amendment

Rejecting the amendment would maintain impacts at their present level, which is somewhere between that caused by Alternative A and that caused by Alternative B. Impacts to cultural resources are probably occurring due to unauthorized off-road activity.

Rejection of the amendment would result in the continued lack of control over off-road vehicle recreation and the continued degrading of habitat for species such as the desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel.

AMENDMENT TWENTY:

CHANGE PLANNING UNIT 32 FROM CLASS L TO CLASS M

Alternative A: Change Entire Unit

Cultural Resources

Changing the designation from Class L to Class M would increase impacts on approximately 100 archaeological sites, including a major petroglyph site and on several areas of special concern to Native Americans. These impacts could be mitigated to some extent by designating crucial roads as closed, but changing the designation to Class M would probably make enforcement of road closures more difficult. There are already serious problems in this area with vandalism, theft of cultural resources, and damage caused by vehicle use. Changing the designation to a less restrictive one in terms of vehicle access would increase impacts. At this time, even though a number of historic mining camps are known in the area, very little remains of actual structures. Increased vehicle access would seriously compound this type of problem.

Wildlife

The change from Class L to Class M would result in increased habitat degradation from conflicting uses. Approximately two-thirds of the planning unit is within the crucial habitat for both the Desert Tortoise and the Mojave Ground Squirrel. Class change would affect development of plans for the two habitat management areas: Western Mojave Desert (tortoise densities of 20 to 50 per square mile) and Superior Valley (Mojave Ground Squirrel). The route designation process available in Class L would be a primary tool for use in development of the two habitat management plans. This is not available in Class M.

Wild Horses and Burros

The State Range Herd Management Area will not retain any burros under the current plan. Therefore there would be no impact.

Livestock Grazing

The Superior Valley grazing allotment is located within this planning unit and would receive more forage loss to increased recreational and mining use. However, long-term effects would be of low significance.

Motorized Vehicles

The recreation use character of the planning unit would change. Opportunities for organized ORV events in this area would be enhanced by allowing pit, start

and finish areas. Use restrictions under class L management would make it difficult to have more than one such race a year. Under class M management, which would be expected to encourage opportunities for commercial and competitive ORV events, just three events similar to the Lane Mountain event held this year would increase total annual visitor use by almost 5 percent. However, class change would increase use conflicts between other recreation users and competitive ORV users. This area is immediately adjacent to popular rockhounding areas, including Scouts Cove, and popular sightseeing areas including Inscription Canyon. The area also includes Black Canyon with several other petroglyph viewing areas and three Superior Dry Lakes which are one of the best popular locations for land salining in the CDCA. A change to class M in these areas would degrade setting and experience opportunities for these recreation uses by encouragement of conflicting recreation uses. One of the most desirable characteristics of the Superior Dry Lakes for land sailors is the fact that the lake surface has not been seriously impacted by ORV use nor is there much competition with this type of use. Change to class M would not only make enforcement of vehicle use restrictions on the lakes more difficult for BLM, it would adversely impact setting and experience opportunities for land sailors through the encouragement of greater levels of ORV use.

Minerals

A large portion of the area recommended for change is totally devoid of the impacts of mining. One example is WSA 186C, Black Mountain. The large majority of lands impacted by mining within this planning unit are already in Class M. Most of the remainder are in the center of the area proposed for change.

Alternative B: Change Only Northern and Central Portion of Unit

Cultural Resources

Accepting this alternative would result in fewer impacts than would occur as a result of Alternative A. However, having a Class M area immediately adjoining the high sensitivity area around Black and Opal Mountains would probably cause indirect impacts through spillover activity from the Class M area.

Wildlife

Most of the acreage of the Desert Tortoise Crucial habitat and habitat management areas, and nearly all crucial Mojave Ground Squirrel habitat within the area are present. Class L and would remain Class L. This would permit effective development of the two habitat management plans. Impacts would result from spillover due to increased recreation use within those areas which would be change to Class M.

Motorized Vehicles

Opportunities for organized ORV use would be enhanced, but to a lesser degree than for Alternative A due to the much smaller area to be changed to Class M. Impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative A, except that the areas close to Black Canyon and Inscription Canyon would remain under Class L management.

Alternative C: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Rejection would maintain the impacts at their current level.

Wildlife

The current emphasis on the protection of sensitive resources would be maintained. Rejection would maintain the availability of more restrictive guidelines for use in the development of habitat management plans.

Motorized Vehicles

Keeping the area under Class L would maintain current recreation use opportunities yet allow for organized ORV uses where consistent with Class L guidelines and management objectives for this planning unit. This would encourage maintenance of recreation use at low to moderate levels under Class L guidelines.

However, it would not enhance organized ORV use opportunities above those permitted under the Desert Plan at this time.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-ONE:

CHANGE PLANNING UNIT 34 FROM CLASS L TO CLASS M

Alternative A: Change Entire Unit From Class L to Class M

Cultural Resources

Vehicle access within the entire Cronese Lake ACEC would increase, allowing for a higher level of recreational use of the area. Increased access and use, especially vehicle use, would cause increased impacts upon cultural resources. Site density is very high, approximately three to five per square mile in the area, and much higher next to the lake. Most of the cultural resources here are surface manifestations and are therefore highly vulnerable to theft, vandalism, and inadvertant damage.

Wildlife

The increase in conflicting use resulting from the change from Class L to Class M would result in an increase in habitat degradation. Resources sensitive to impact would include Bighorn sheep using a migration corridor in the north-eastern portion of the unit, and migrating shorebirds and waterfowl which use East Cronese and Cronese Lake ACEC would be subjected to increased use and degradation.

Livestock Grazing

The increased access that would result from this amendment would reduce the amount of livestock forage in the Cronese Grazing Allotment in the long term.

Wilderness

This area represents approximately 40 percent of WSA 242 (Soda Mountains). The statement that this area has been extensively impacted by mining conflicts with the "natural condition" statement made for the WSA. Those few impacts of mining and ORV use that do exist were found by the Wilderness Inventory Team to be "substantially unnoticeable" through the area as a whole. Those impacts that do exist are by no means extensive.

Motorized Vehicles

Changing class would enhance opportunities for organized ORV events in this area by allowing pit, start and finish areas. It would encourage greater overall recreation use of this area. However, it would encourage greater overall recreation use than the current guidelines for low-to-moderate use under Class L.

Alternative B: Change Only Checkerboard Area

Cultural Resources

Direct impacts under this alternative would occur to only a portion of the Cronese Lake ACEC. Although indirect impacts would occur to a wider area due to spillover from the proposed Class M area into the adjoining Class L area, the lake bed itself and 70 percent of the unit would receive Class L protection.

Wildlife

Some habitat will be directly affected and degraded, but generally, impacts would be significantly lower than for Alternative A. The HMA and the Bighorn sheep corridor would not be affected.

Alternative C: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Rejecting the amendment would continue the protection of Class L designation for the Cronese Lake ACEC. Impacts would continue at their present level.

Wildlife

Impacts would continue at their present level.

Motorized Vehicles

Keeping this portion of the unit as Class L would serve to maintain current recreation use opportunities that include opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, yet allow for organized ORV uses consistent with the HMP for wilderness and planning unit management objectives for the Class L area. However, it would not serve to enhance opportunities above existing levels for organized ORV events.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-TWO:

CHANGE PLANNING UNIT 38 FROM CLASS L TO CLASS M

Alternative A: Change Cinnamon Hills Area Only

Changing the designation from Class L to Class M would allow increased levels of vehicle access and recreational use, both of which would cause increased impacts (or sanction impacts already occurring) to an area of very high archaeological and Native American value, potentially impacting 13 recorded sites and an unknown number of unrecorded sites. The north-central portion of this area is most sensitive. This area of very high cultural sensitivity covers about five percent of the unit, and has a predicted site density of thirty per square mile.

Wildlife

The change from Class L to Class M would result in an increase in habitat degradation due to a decreased emphasis on the protection of sensitive resources. These lands are located within the Granite/Newberry Mountains Raptor Breeding Area, a "core" area for two raptors in particular, the Golden Eagle and Prairie Falcon. Numerous historical eyries are located throughout these Class L lands. The importance of this area to raptors is recognized in the Desert Plan (1980) which stipulates development and implementation of a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. Planned management actions for the protection of the area raptors would include controlling vehicle use, increasing area surveillance, and restricting camping and parking. Changing class restrictions from a "limited"

to a more intensive-oriented "moderate" designation would restrict the BLM's ability to implement these kinds of management prescriptions within this Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.

Livestock Grazing

Increased access would result from this amendment which would result in loss of livestock forage, increased livestock harassment and increased range-improvement vandalism on the Valley Well, Ord Mountain and Newberry/Ord Allotments over the long-term.

Motorized Vehicles

Opportunities for organized ORV events would be enhanced. The class change recognizes the high level of recreation use that occurs in the area. From a recreation management viewpoint, recreation use levels could be more effectively managed as Class M than Class L. However, the change would result in some conflict between organized ORV users and free-play ORV users. This conflict, however, should be small in relation to overall use.

Visual Resources

The northern portion of the area was ranked by the visual inventory as Class II, due to high visual resources. Changing to Class M would allow activities which could degrade this area's visual quality.

Alternative B: Change All Class L to Class M

Impacts would be generally the same as for Alternative A although slightly more severe except as noted below.

Cultural Resources

Impacts of increased recreational activity would not be much greater than those caused by Alternative A since the high sensitivity area would be impacted in either case. There is a potential for impacting greater numbers of unknown sites under Alternative B than under Alternative A.

Wildlife

Increased recreational activity would impact a larger portion of the Granite/Newberry Mountains Raptor Breeding area.

Motorized Vehicles

Although changing all Class L land to Class M would increase opportunities

for recreation use, the high-use ORV area at present in this planning unit is that included in Plan Amendment 22A. The remainder of the unit receives relatively low recreation use. This would result in a decline in setting and experience opportunities for recreation activities other than organized ORV use. These uses include motor vehicle touring, recreation, mining, site seeing, and camping.

Wilderness

Opportunities for a primitive, unconfined type of recreation would be degraded in the adjacent Newberry Mountains WSA.

Visual Resources

Same as Alternative A. In addition, close to half of the additional area to be change to M was rated VRM Class II and would be negatively affected.

Alternative C: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

A more protection-oriented set of guidelines would be maintained which would enhance development of the Newberry/Granite Mountains Habitat Management Plan, providing the guidelines could be enforced.

Motorized Vehicles

Maintaining use levels at low-to-moderate levels as Class L guidelines suggest would be difficult if not impossible. Free play use would continue to occur and restriction of use to approved routes would prove to be unworkable. Organized ORV users would, in practice, have fewer opportunities than non-affiliated ORV users.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-THREE:

CHANGE PLANNING UNIT 36 FROM CLASS L TO CLASS M

Alternative A: Change All Unit 36 Class L to Class M

Cultural Resources

Alternative A would increase use levels at and around 12 recorded and an unknown number of unrecorded archaeological sites as well as two areas of special significance for Native American values. Use levels would increase around Sidewinder Mountain, which has mythic/religious associations for Native Americans.

Wildlife

See Amendment 22. In addition, Class L lands within Planning Unit 36 also contain extremely high density populations of the desert tortoise, a BLM sensitive species known to be declining throughout major portions of its range in California (Berry and Nicholson, 1979). Tortoise densities throughout this area range from 100 to over 250 per square mile. Relaxing recreational vehicle use here would accelerate the decline of resident populations due to collection, destruction, and habitat degradation.

Livestock Grazing

Increased recreational use would result in a loss of forage in the Stoddard Mountain Sheep lease during its three months of use. There would be an increase in livestock harassment and vandalism of range improvements over the long term.

Motorized Vehicles

With possibly a few minor exceptions, the area in the proposal is not heavily impacted nor is it heavily used by free-play ORV users. Heavy use areas, such as Turtle Valley, were changed to Class M in a 1981 Plan Amendment. Because they are so rocky as to be largely impassable, Stoddard Ridge, Black Mountain, Sidewinder Mountain, and the Granite Mountains are not heavily used or impacted.

The change would enhance organized ORV opportunities and encourage higher overall recreation use levels in the area of the proposal. However, it would conflict with and degrade recreation activities in the area other than organized ORV events. These activities include rockhounding, motor vehicle touring, and model airplane use. It would encourage higher recreation use levels and thereby degrade setting opportunities for all competing users.

Alternative B: Change All Class L Except Southwest Granite Mountain to Class M

Impacts would be described for Alternative A.

Alternative C: Change Only Class L Lands North of Granite Mountains to Class M

Impacts would be described for Alternative A except as specifically noted below.

Cultural Resources

This alternative would increase use levels at and around a highly sensitive petroglyph site and on Sidewinder Mountain.

Alternative D: Reject Alternative (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Rejection would continue impacts at their current level.

Wildlife

See Amendment 22, Alternative C.

Motorized Vehicles

Rejection would maintain the current setting and opportunities while at the same time it would permit organized ORV use where consistent with Class L guidelines and planning area management objectives. However, it would not enhance organized ORV opportunities within this area above those currently permitted under the Desert Plan. It would not encourage additional recreation use of this area.

Visual Resources

This area was originally recommended for VRM Class III Management. Class M designation would be compatible with this original recommendation.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-FOUR:

CHANGE ROUND MOUNTAIN CLASS L TO CLASS M

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Cultural values would be less manageable as Class M than as Class L. Serious impacts are being caused to important resources here because of vehicle use. There are a number of roads in the area. One road runs through a midden area and ORV activity has damaged other sites. Several rock shelters and a village site have been potted.

Juniper Flats ACEC lies within the subject area. This ACEC, which covers the western end of the proposed amendment area, contains very important and unusual cultural resources that are probably of National Register quality. Sites of the type found here are extremely unusual in the California desert. The ACEC nomination states that, "The most immediate need is to prevent or limit and confine access into or within the region." Changing the designation to Class M in fact makes it more difficult to carry out the management prescriptions recommended for the ACEC, which include limiting vehicle activity in the area.

Wildlife

The change from Class L to Class M would result in increased habitat degradation due to a decreased emphasis on the protection of sensitive resources. Wildlife resources susceptible to impact in this transition zone between mountains and desert include mule deer and several riparian zones (such as those along Arrastie Canyon).

Livestock Grazing

This area is currently being incorporated with an existing Forest Service grazing lease. Use of the area would increase as described for Amendment 22 and would result in similar impacts on livestock grazing.

Motorized Vehicles

The class change would enhance opportunities for organized ORV activities within the area of this proposal. It would encourage greater overall utilization of this area for recreation purposes. However, the change would degrade the setting and use opportunities for recreation other than organized ORV use. These include horseback riding, pinyon nut harvesting, hunting, motor vehicle touring, camping, and hiking. It would encourage greater use levels than now suggested by Class L.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Rejecting the amendment would not in itself decrease the vehicle use that is damaging cultural resources here. It would, however, make it easier to initiate protection measures both within and outside the ACEC.

Wildlife

Rejection of this amendment would maintain the current protection-oriented management of the area, which could generally benefit wildlife.

Motorized Vehicles

Rejection would maintain existing recreation opportunities at a low-to-moderate use level as suggested by Desert Plan Class L Guidelines. This would effectively prohibit most organized ORV activities from using this area since such use may pass through this area but may not start, pit, or camp in a Class L area. No adjacent Class M or I areas exist to serve as alternatives for this purpose, although such activities may occur in nearby areas such as the Johnson Valley Open Area, ten miles to the northeast. Under Class L, recreation would

be managed to maintain low-to-moderate use levels. This level more closely corresponds to existing patterns of use and resource capabilities, thereby enhancing recreation in this relatively lightly-used unit.

Although it is true that there are many vehicle routes in this area, it does not receive high use. From a recreation management standpoint, resources in this area can be better managed under Class L since there would be fewer conflicts between currently permitted uses than would exist under a Class M designation.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-FIVE:

CHANGE RED CLOUD MINE AREA FROM CLASS M TO CLASS L

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

The primary resources that would be impacted are perhaps a dozen recorded and unrecorded historic mining sites. These sites are all adjacent to existing roads. Since roads in this area have not been formally designated closed, changing the class designation from Class L to Class M would have the effect of opening existing routes. This action would lower the level of protection for historic structures lining existing roads. The amount of vandalism and discarded garbage found at these sites on a recent inspection indicates that they are suffering under current use levels.

Wildlife

Since the area is currently subjected to significant levels of human use, no significant change in level of activity is anticipated.

Visual Resources

Most of this area was rated as high in visual resource quality and recommended for VRM Class II management. Activities permitted in multiple-use class M could be incompatible with this VRM class and could degrade visual resources.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Rejecting the amendment would probably result in impacts remaining at their current level. It would however, make protective road closures easier to initiate and enforce at some time in the future.

Wildlife

Rejection of the change will maintain the current emphasis on the protection of sensitive resources. The availability of the route designation process in Class L areas would be useful in the development of the Orocopia Mountains and Chuckwalla Bench Habitat Management Plans.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-SIX:

CHANGE GORDON'S WELL VICINITY FROM CLASS L TO CLASS I

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Acceptance could cause loss of a number of pot sherd scatters as well as unknown number of unrecorded materials, although the overall rate of impact would probably not increase.

Wildlife

The proposed change would result in significant increases in ORV activity. ORV use disturbs annual seed beds dependent on a small quantity of organic material for nutrients and destroys perennial plants. This leads to reduced plant cover, which is used by wildlife for food and cover. It has been shown that noise produced by ORVs is high enough to cause permanent hearing loss in reptiles and amphibians (Bondello and Brattstrom 1966). Such noises may also cause Couch's spadefoot toad to emerge at the wrong time or season, resulting in dehydration and unnecessary expenditure of energy (Bondello and Brattstrom 1966). Dune insects frequently bury themselves under the sand for extended periods. ORV use can result in the direct loss of some of these. Severe impacts, which result in declines in Andrew's dune scarab beetle, may lead to the Federal listing of that species.

Vegetation

Several rare plants exist in the area and would be subject to impact. These plants include the following protected rare plants.

- Astragalus magdalenae var. peirsoni
- Helianthus niveus var. tephrodes
- Ammodramus sonare

State protected plants include:

- Astragalus lentiginosus var. borreganus
- Croton Wigginsii

Minerals

See Amendment Nineteen, Alternative B.

Wildlife

Rejection of the change would maintain the current emphasis on the protection of sensitive resources. The availability of the route designation process in Class L areas would be useful in the development of the Orocopia Mountains and Chuckwalla Bench Habitat Management Plans.

Visual Resources

Changing the class from L to I would encourage additional motor vehicle use, but would probably degrade visual resource quality (which is rated as high) for only a short time since this is a sand dune area.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Rejection would probably result in the same amount of impact as acceptance.

Wildlife

The current management guidelines would be retained; these would provide more protection for wildlife than those for Class I. However, without closure of the new bridge, it may be difficult to retain the integrity of Class L.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-SEVEN:

CHANGE PORTION OF WSA 117 (Saline) TO NON-SUITABLE, CLASS M

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

No significant impacts are anticipated.

Wilderness

The proposed amendment would allow minor adverse effects on the wilderness values of the recommended suitable area. These impacts are hypothetical as no new mineral data are known, and could affect about two square miles of natural condition, solitude, primitive and unconfined forms of recreation and scenic values. Manageability of the remaining suitable area would not be affected.

Minerals

The mineral potential for this area was analyzed in the Eureka Valley GRA and in the Management Summary dated June 1, 1982. Based on a check of March 9, 1982 microfiche, it appears that no locatable (or leaseable) valid existing rights are on record. The Interim Management Policy and 43 CFR 3802.1-5(c)(3) would apply fully and probably would preclude any large-scale development of a mineral deposit, if one is located in the future. The non-impairment standard right might preclude or conflict with operations on the millsites on record as of this date.

This area has been classified as medium-to-low potential for the occurrence of lithium, on the basis of favorable geologic environment. The potential for other locatable and leaseable minerals is unknown. Because no additional field verification was performed, additional data must be gathered before a final determination can be made.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

The Interim Management Policy allows lands under wilderness review (Wilderness Study Areas - WSAs) to remain open to the operation of the General Mining Laws as well as the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. With the exception of "grandfathered", i.e., those operations existing on October 21, 1976, and those claims and/or leases that have a valid existing right, all mineral activities are regulated under the non-impairment standard. The non-impairment standard is applied totally to all post-FLPMA leases, mining claims, and any other general authorizations. For mining claims, the non-impairment standard is noted at 43 CFR 3802.1-5(c)(3). Oil and Gas and Geothermal lease applications are processed in accordance with the IMP, ps. 24-25.

Because any mineral operation upon a post FLPMA claim or lease can be disapproved based solely upon impacts to wilderness, it appears that maintenance of a WSA designation would probably preclude any large scale development of any type of mineral deposit.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-EIGHT:

CHANGE PORTION OF WSA 150 (Nopah Range) TO NON-SUITABLE, CLASS M, AT SHAW MINE

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wildlife

The entry of vehicles allowed in Class L would increase disturbance of bighorn sheep which use this area as a migration corridor. Disturbance of a bighorn sheep herd of 10 individuals and of golden eagles foraging in the area could also occur.

new mineral data are known; however, recommendation of these two sections as nonsuitable creates land, which would then be unmanageable (sections 28, 29, 30, and 33). Impacts would therefore affect about four square miles of natural condition, solitude, primitive and unconfined forms of recreation, and scenic values. Manageability of the remaining suitable area would not be affected.

Wilderness

The proposed amendment would allow minor adverse effects to the wilderness values of the recommended suitable area.

Wild Horses and Burros

There would be no significant impact on the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area.

Minerals

The mineral potential for this WSA was analyzed in the draft Resting Spring Range GRA and updated in the Management Summary dated 6/1/82 (see map 4-1). The Shaw (Nopah) Mine area within area B of the Management Summary contains at least 7 pre-FLPMA claims. Should these claims be able to demonstrate a discovery as of October 21, 1976 and a discovery continuing to the present time, the non-impairment standard may not necessarily apply to operations on these dunes, if the non-impairment standard unduly interferes with the benefits to be enjoyed from the claim. Any post FLPMA claims would be subject to the Interim Management Policy and 43 CFR 3802 1-5(c)(3), which would probably preclude any large scale development of a mineral deposit, if one is located in the future.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

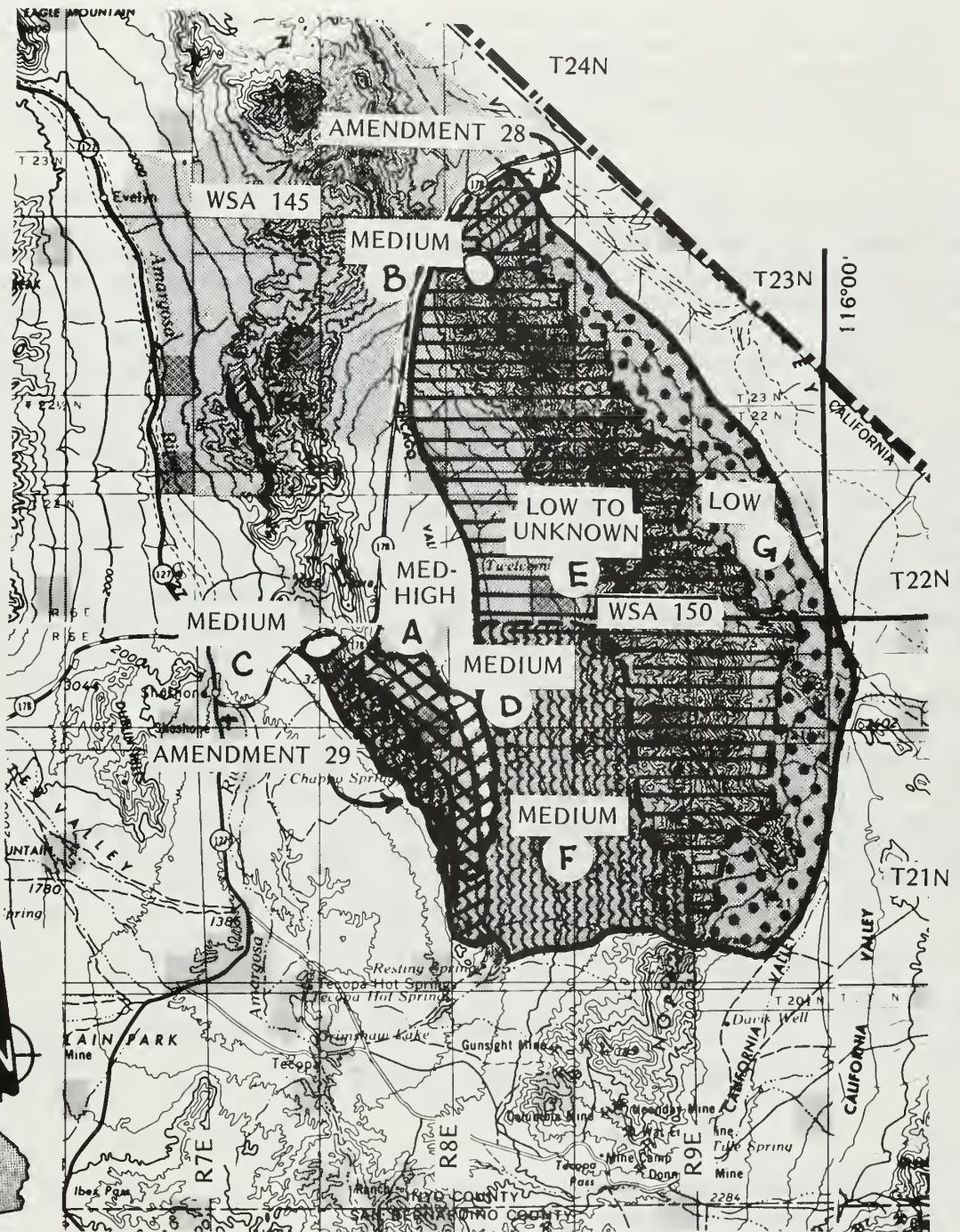
Minerals

There would be no significant adverse impact on any resources in this area other than minerals. As noted in the Management Summary, the claims would probably not risk expensive exploration as long as the recommended status remains in effect. A high level of protection of wildlife would continue. For a discussion of impacts on minerals, see Amendment 27, No Action.

MINERAL POTENTIAL

WSA 150

Map 4-1



AMENDMENT TWENTY-NINE:

CHANGE RESTING SPRINGS PORTION OF WSA 150 (Nopah Range) TO NON-SUITABLE, CLASS L

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Because of the stricter environmental requirements for wilderness, the highly sensitive and important cultural resources on the eastern side of this region would receive less protection than at present. A site density of 32 per square mile has been predicted. Mining activity could threaten the cultural resources. The less restrictive land designation allows a greater potential for damage.

Changing this area from C to L, which would change the applicable mining regulations, could have considerable impact on BLM's ability to manage the rich and complex cultural resources present. The 3809 regulations place the burden of funding and carrying out mitigation on sites that would be impacted by mining solely on BLM. It also places strict time limits on BLM for performing the mitigation. A proper data retrieval and mitigation program on a complex site, such as a village site with midden, would be a costly, lengthy, and labor-intensive effort. The 3802 regulations which apply to wilderness allow more freedom for BLM's management to schedule expensive mitigation programs through the annual work plan, or for the mining company to help fund the mitigation if it desires to do so.

Wildlife

The admission of vehicles into the area would increase disturbance to bighorn sheep using the Resting Spring Range as a transient range.

Wilderness

The proposed amendment would allow minor adverse effects on the wilderness values of the recommended suitable area. Impacts would affect about 7860 acres of natural condition, solitude, primitive and unconfined forms of recreation, and scenic values. Manageability of the remaining suitable area would not be affected.

Wild Horses and Burros

There would be no significant impact on the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area.

Minerals

The mineral potential of the Amendment 29 area is indicated in map 4 - Area A is rated medium to high for locatable nonmetallics. The minerals interest

are borates. The majority of borate production in the CDCA comes from Boron in Kern County (all the borate production in the U.S. comes from the CDCA). All geologic indicators point to high potential for borates in the WSA. Boron is classified as a category I mineral. The area is potentially valuable for geothermal resources. Area D is classified as medium potential on the bases of sand and gravel occurrence.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources and Wildlife

Keeping the area in wilderness would maintain a high level of protection for the cultural resources and wildlife.

Wilderness

Natural values would remain protected as a component of the Natural Wilderness Preservation System. Two non-BLM-administered sections would be endorsed within the suitable area. It should be noted that private and other non-public land-owners have legal rights of access to their property. Therefore, a change in the wilderness suitability recommendation is not necessary to secure this right.

Minerals

As stated above, the majority of borate production in the CDCA comes from Boron in Kern County. The expected life of that deposit is 25 years. After that time, future borate requirements (on a nationwide scale) would increase demand for borates that potential areas such as WSA 150 could supply. Sand and gravel is a widely occurring mineral and alternative sources exist. Wilderness designation would have little effect since abundant supplies of sand and gravel are available elsewhere.

See also Amendment 28, Minerals (No Action).

Other

This portion of the Wilderness Study Area surrounds private property and Indian withdrawal land. Access to these parcels would remain open since continued access is mandated by FLPMA and the Wilderness Act.

AMENDMENT THIRTY:

RECOMMEND WESTERN PORTION OF WSA 171 (Woods Mountain) AS SUITABLE

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Placing this area in wilderness would provide a high level of protection to a

large number of important and valuable cultural resources (see Amendment 29). The Woods Mountains contain one of the finest archaeological complexes in the East Mojave. Woods Wash has been nominated by BLM to the National Register of Historic Places. Forty-six sites have been identified. Over 1500 petroglyphs are known. It might, however, adversely impact the ability of the Native Americans to use the area for traditional collection purposes, and special arrangements may be needed.

Wildlife

A change from Class L to Class C would increase the protection of sensitive wildlife species, including bighorn sheep and raptors. A herd of 12 Bighorn sheep use the Woods Mountains as permanent range. A bighorn migration corridor crosses the area. The change will reduce the level of human activity, especially in motorized vehicles.

Wilderness

The proposed amendment would result in minor beneficial impacts on the wilderness values of the area by providing legislative, rather than administrative protection. Positive impacts would accrue to the natural condition, opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities, previous recreation uses, and especially to cultural (rock art) values. Designation as wilderness would be a most effective step in protecting this most extensive assemblage of rock art in the Eastern Mojave. However, there could be a management problem in Woods Wash, where alternate sections with large concentrations of saleable yucca are privately owned.

Livestock Grazing

The Wilderness area would be compatible with grazing in most respects. Few improvements exist and none are proposed for the area. Thus, no significant impacts are anticipated.

Minerals

Based upon all available information without any further field verification, it appears that much of WSA 271 has low potential for both locatable and leaseable mineral resources. (Background information includes the draft Hackberry Mountain GRA, and Volume B, Appendix III, pp. 478-479 of the Desert Plan; no management summary of the GRA has yet been prepared.) As of March 9, 1982, there were no mining claims. Because no leaseable or locatable valid existing rights appear to be on record, the Interim Management Policy and 43 CFR 3802 1-5(c)(3) will apply fully and probably preclude any large scale development of a mineral deposit, if one is located in the future.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Retaining this area in Class L provides a lower level of protection for the cultural and wildlife resources present than wilderness would provide. Mineral development would not be precluded in the future.

AMENDMENT THIRTY-ONE:

CHANGE SECTION 35, T 11 N., R. 12 E., FROM CLASS C TO CLASS M

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

The proposed amendment would allow substantial adverse effects from mining operations to the wilderness values of one section of public land. However, the proposed change is insignificant within the context of the overall suitability recommendation, and will in no way adversely affect the manageability of the remaining suitable area. There would be no significant impacts on cultural, wildlife, or recreation resources.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Construction of a millsite and working of the adjacent dunes would be prohibited. A small portion of the northeastern top of WSA 250 would be physically isolated from the remainder of the study area and would not be manageable as wilderness. No other resources would be significantly affected.

AMENDMENT THIRTY-TWO:

CHANGE NORTHERN AND WESTERN WSA 150 (KELSO DUNES) FROM CLASS C TO CLASS L

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Since there are no known archaeological sites of any great significance, impacts would be low.

Wildlife

The change in classification would result in increased human activity. The human presence and noise from mechanized equipment would increase disturbance to wildlife (primarily sand-dwelling species such as Mojave fringe-toed lizard, kit fox and kangaroo rats) although such impacts may not be particularly significant.

Wilderness

The proposed amendment would allow minor adverse effects on the wilderness values

values of 5,080 acres of the recommended suitable area. The redesignation involves creosote-covered alluvium and sand hummocks and considerable interspersed private land. WSA 250 was recommended suitable based primarily upon the presence of the Kelso Dunes, to the southeast. These dunes are not included in the proposed amendment, and their effective management is expected to be improved by the deletion of the mixed-ownership lands. The minor adverse impacts anticipated include a reduction in natural condition, loss of solitude opportunities, loss of full protection to some of the unusual sand hummocks in part of the "Devil's Playground", and reduced scenic values. Minor positive impacts would include possible continued recreation uses, including vehicles, from Kelso residents and visitors, and increased manageability of the remaining suitable area.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

This area would remain recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. The western portion contains several sections of private land and would be difficult to manage as Wilderness. In the northern portion, one section has been proposed for a Class change from Class C to Class M (Amendment 31); if that amendment is accepted, the extreme northeastern tip of the WSA would be isolated from the remainder of the unit and would not be manageable as Wilderness.

AMENDMENT THIRTY-FOUR:

CHANGE WSA 217 EAST OF RATTLESNAKE CANYON FROM CLASS C TO CLASS L

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

No significant impact.

Wildlife

The area is used by mule deer and provides transient range for bighorn sheep. Increased human activity would cause an increase in disturbance to wildlife, but impacts are not expected to be significant.

Vegetation

Erigeron parishii was last collected prior to 1945. Further discovery has not been noted. It is found along the north slope 3000-5000' of the San Bernardino Mountains, around Cushenbury Canyon and one other location in Rattlesnake Canyon. The mining in Cushenbury Canyon has seriously affected its habitat and plants at this location. Rattlesnake Canyon is the only other site recorded. Therefore, any impact on this habitat will affect the plant's existence.

Wilderness

This proposed amendment is a result of extensive on-the-ground review which revealed many old and new mining claims, and more extensive and additional access routes than previously identified.

The amendment would allow very minor adverse effects on the wilderness values of the recommended suitable area. Impacts are expected to be minor because of the currently permitted uses and developments associated with the many existing mining claims. This portion of the WSA was the most impacted, least manageable area, and its deletion would lead to more effective management of the remaining suitable area. Impacts anticipated include very minor reductions in natural conditions, solitude opportunities, and scenic values. Positive impacts anticipated include increased manageability, continued motorized vehicle use, and more efficient utilization of non-wilderness resource values. The remaining suitable portion is contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service RARE II recommended suitable area.

Livestock Grazing

Overall, impacts on livestock would be positive. Range improvement development could occur, plus proposed grazing lease expansion with approval of this amendment. The long-term affect would be increased AUMs and improved management.

Motorized Vehicles

The change would allow for continued motorized vehicle access into this area for recreation purposes. It would reduce conflict between vehicle oriented recreation users and primitive recreation experience users.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

The number of existing motor vehicle routes and mining claims (over 140) makes this area difficult to manage as wilderness, both from an administrative and an enforcement standpoint. This would essentially be an attempt to alter the established recreation-use pattern of the area, establish a new pattern of non-vehicular use, and therefore reduce opportunities for motorized vehicular recreation forms. For Minerals, see Amendment 28 (No Action).

AMENDMENT THIRTY-SIX:

CHANGE WSA 217, BLACK MOUNTAIN PORTION, FROM CLASS L TO CLASS C

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

A wilderness designation would provide maximum protection for the few cultural resources known in the area (see Amendment 29).

Wildlife

There would be a general decrease in disturbance of mule deer and Bighorn using the area as transient range.

Wilderness

This amendment would result in minor beneficial impacts to the wilderness values of the area by providing legislative protection of resource values beyond that available under Multiple Use Class L. The area possesses exceptional opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined forms of recreation, habitat types represented, plant and animal species present, and geologic periods represented. Negative impacts are expected to be very minor as the area does not possess any mining claims or access routes. Positive impacts include preservation of natural values, opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined forms of recreation, scenic values, previous recreational uses, cultural values, and wilderness opportunities relatively near to urban areas.

Minerals

The locatable mineral potential is classified as unqualified. Since no valid existing rights appear on record, the non-impairment standard or 43 CFR 3802.1-5 (c)(3) would apply fully and would probably preclude any large-scale development of a mineral deposit, if located in the future.

A small portion in the northwestern section of the WSA addition is classified as prospectively valuable for leaseable sodium. Wilderness designation could preclude any large scale development of the sodium deposit in the future. The remainder of the area has an unknown to low potential for other leaseable minerals.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

An area possessing many wilderness values and in close proximity to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area would not be incorporated into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Activities allowed under Class L guidelines would, in the long run, result in degradation of the area's natural values and would reduce opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. However, there are already several other designated or recommended wilderness areas close to this unit (including four within 25 miles). Any future long-scale minerals development would not be precluded by non-impairment criteria.

AMENDMENT THIRTY-SEVEN:
CHANGE WSA 218 (Morongo) FROM CLASS L TO CLASS C

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources and Wildlife

A wilderness designation would provide maximum protection for cultural resources which may exist in the area and minimize human disturbance to wildlife populations.

Wilderness

This proposed amendment would correct an inadvertant editorial error in the California Desert Plan. Appendix B of the Plan describes the area and the rationale for the decision. The available data clearly indicates that the intent was to recommend the area as suitable. The area is in the top half of all CDCA WSAs in overall values, and possesses outstanding natural conditions, great diversity of (wildlife) habitat types, outstanding scenic quality, and is situated in close proximity to urban centers. The area is entirely consolidated under BLM administration, contains only one mining claim and intrusions, and has received public support for designation as wilderness. The proposed amendment would result in moderate beneficial impacts to the wilderness values of the area. These positive effects include preservation of close in wilderness opportunities, maintenance of natural conditions, solitude opportunities, primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities, outstanding scenic quality, and diversity of habitat types.

Minerals

The impacts on locatable mineral resources are not quantifiable since the Desert Plan has classified this as unqualified. Of course, since no valid existing rights appear on record, the non-impairment standard at 43 CFR 3802.1-5 (c)(3), would apply fully, and would probably preclude any large scale development of a mineral deposit if located in the future. The land appears to have unknown to low potential for leaseable minerals.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

See Amendment 36, Alternative B.

AMENDMENT THIRTY-NINE:
CHANGE TWO PORTIONS OF WSA 145 FROM CLASS C TO CLASS L

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Culural Resources

Accepting this amendment would drop from wilderness an area likely to contain resources. Although only a small portion of the area has been identified as having high sensitivity, the presence of a large number of springs indicates a very high probability for cultural resources (see Amendment 29).

Wildlife

The area provides foraging habitat for golden eagles and prairie falcons. It is used as transient range for bighorn sheep. A change to Class L would increase the potential for disturbing wildlife.

Vegetation

Plant Nitrophils and the sensitive plant Cordylanthus could be seriously affected by mine spoils.

Wilderness

This proposed amendment would allow minor to moderate adverse effects on the wilderness values of the recommended suitable area. The impacts are hypothetical as no new mineral data are recorded and no claims are recorded in the subject area. Approximately 30 square miles possessing wilderness values could be affected and values impacted would include natural condition, solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities, scenic values, and historic and cultural values. The remaining suitable area is large enough to retain manageability as wilderness.

Wild Horse and Burro

There would be no significant impact on the Chicago Valley Herd Management Area.

Minerals

The mineral potential for this area was analyzed in the Management Summary dated June 1, 1982. Due to the size of this area, no mining claim search was performed. Pre-FLPMA claims may be subject to the wilderness non-impairment criteria and post-FLPMA claims would be subject to the non-impairment criteria as specified at 43 CFR 3802.1-5(c)(3) and in the Interim Management Policy.

The amendment area has been divided into four areas, as noted on map 4-2 and table 4-5. Because no additional field verification was performed, additional field data must be gathered before a final determination can be made.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Maintaining the current designation would continue a high level of protection for wildlife and for any cultural resources that are present.

For Minerals, see Amendment 28, Alternative B: (No Action).

AMENDMENT FORTY-ONE:

CHANGE PORTION OF WSA 157 (Little Lake Canyon) FROM CLASS C TO CLASS L

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

The potential for impacts on this area's valuable cultural resources would increase (see Amendment 29). The most sensitive areas are primarily on the eastern side of the WSA around the canyon mouths and the mountain-fan interfaces. A very sensitive area also occurs in the northwestern portion of the area.

Wildlife

The current Class C designation provides a considerable degree of protection to the sensitive wildlife species and riparian habitats found in the area. The area contains a broad transition zone between Sierra Nevada and Mojave Desert wildlife communities. The merging of Mojave and Sierra species creates a high diversity of wildlife in this location. Numerous canyons with excellent riparian habitat penetrate the area. The southern 75 percent of the area falls within the East Sierra Canyons Wildlife Habitat Management Area. The change to Class L would increase human activity, especially that involving mechanized equipment. In the canyons further south there is considerable off-road vehicle activity. This, together with the accompanying recreational activities such as camping, shooting, and firewood collecting, would have severe impacts there. As these activities move northward in time, similar impacts can be expected in the proposed area.

Wilderness

This proposed amendment would allow minor to moderate adverse effects to the wilderness values of the entire recommended suitable area. The impacts are hypothetical as no new mineral data has been received, and no mining claims have been recorded in the 45-square-mile area. Adverse impacts from mining

MINERAL POTENTIAL

WSA 145

Map 4-2

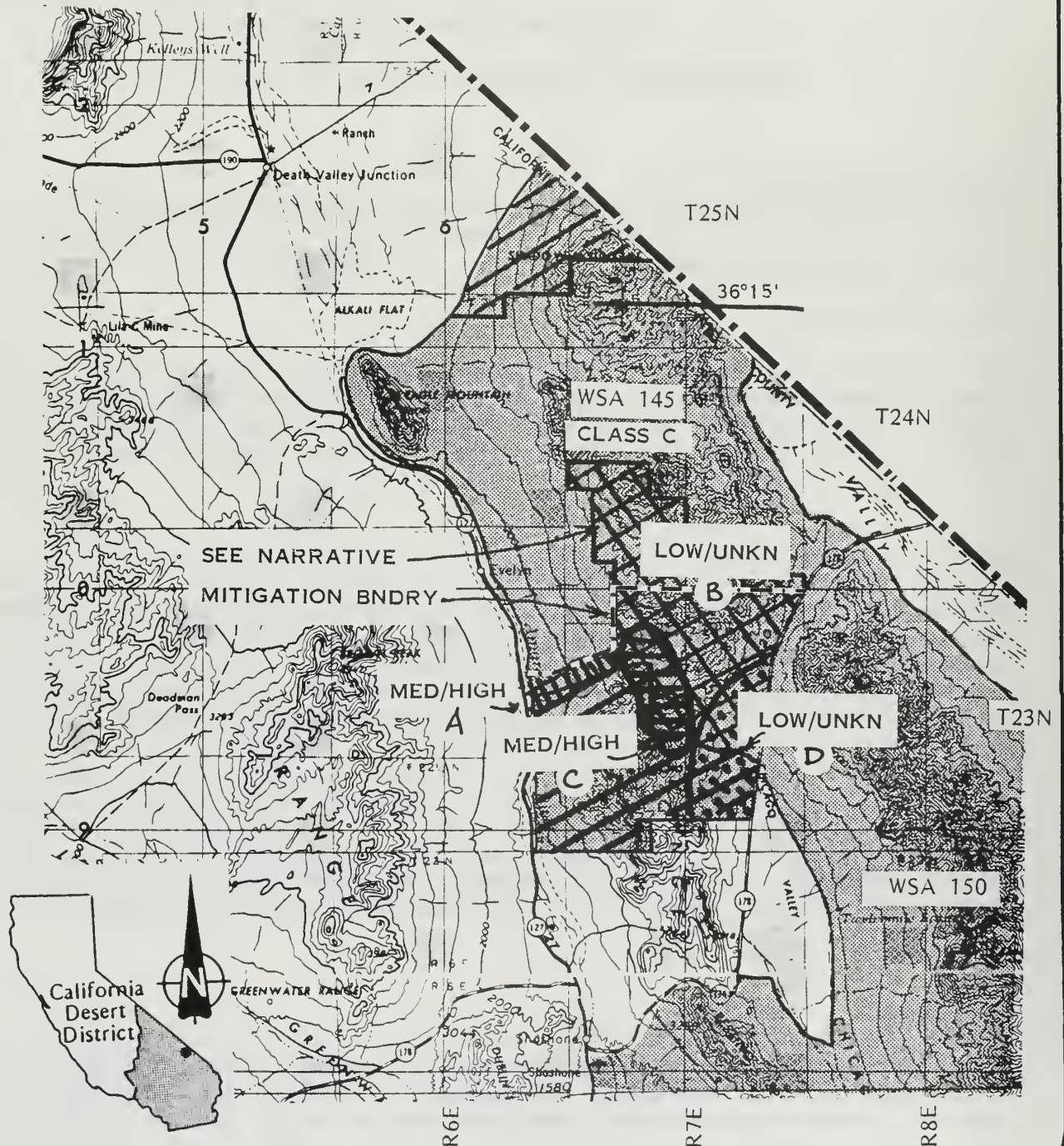


TABLE 4-5
WSA 145 Mineral Potential

<u>AREA</u>	<u>ANALYSIS</u>
A	Rated medium-to-high potential for non-metallic locatable minerals, especially borates.
B	Rated low-to-unknown potential for discovery of economic mineral deposits.
C	Rated medium-to-high potential for lead-zinc-silver mineralization, based on past production and high assay values from the Baxter Mine. Assays indicate a value of 14 oz/ton of silver in galena and 3-9 oz/ton in oxidized material.
D	Rated low-to-unknown potential for mineral occurrences.

activities upon wilderness values present would include reductions in natural condition, solitude, wildlife habitat, scenic values, upland game hunting opportunities, and most significantly, the overall wilderness opportunity foregone because the entire WSA would be recommended as nonsuitable for designation.

Livestock Grazing

Negative impacts would occur on the Walker Pass Common Allotment in the long term. These impacts would occur from increased access and visitor use. Impacts would consist of vandalism and livestock harassment.

Minerals

The mineral potential for this WSA was analyzed in the Management Summary for this WSA dated May 25, 1982. Because no leaseable or locatable valid existing rights appear on record, the Interim Management Policy and 43 CFR 3802.1-5(c)(3) will apply fully.

Based upon all available information, without any further filed verification, it appears that much of WSA 157 has low or unknown potential for both locatable and leaseable mineral resources.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Rejection would maintain a belt of proposed wilderness on the precipitous eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. A generally higher degree of protection would be maintained for most resources present.

For Minerals, see Amendment 28 (No Action).

AMENDMENT FORTY-TWO:

CHANGE WSA 123 (Hunter Mountain) FROM CLASS C TO CLASS L

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

A number of valuable cultural resources would receive less protection as an ACEC under Class L management than as Wilderness, since 3809 rather than 3802 mineral regulations would apply (see Amendment 29). The number of cultural sites known is quite high, and the presence of a large number of springs makes it likely that many more exist. Native American concerns are also high, as this is a traditional collecting area. Hunter Mountain itself is sacred.

Wildlife

The proposed change would result in a significant increase in conflicting uses. The change to a less preservation-oriented Class would decrease the options available to the Habitat Management Plan to be prepared for the area. This is the Hunter-Cottonwood Mountain/Grapevine Canyon WHMA, an area designated for Bighorn sheep, which use the area for permanent range, and as a migration route. Among the activities with major impacts on wildlife resources are mining, and off-road vehicle use. Impacts would consist of increased disturbance to species requiring solitude, such as Bighorn sheep and mule deer, and possible destruction of valuable riparian habitat, such as the cottonwood-willow community in Grapevine Canyon.

Wilderness

This proposed amendment could allow minor to moderate adverse effects on the wilderness values of the entire suitable WSA, ranked as the second best in the CDCA, or it could provide some positive effects. While the ACEC designation provides for special management attention to important and relevant resources or values, those resources and values are not identical to those afforded protection under the Wilderness Act. ACEC protection is to be given priority attention in planning and management, but the statutory protection from Congressional designation carries stronger legal, rather than basically administrative, protection. It is possible, however, that certain land uses may be more restricted under ACEC designation than if they were Wilderness. For example, grazing is specifically authorized as an appropriate use in wilderness; in an ACEC it may be considered an incompatible use, and prohibited. A similar situation exists regarding mining: wilderness designation grandfathered the 10 claims recorded in the area; the effect of ACEC designation on these claims is unclear. The past designation ACEC management plan would provide the only real answer to this question, with the key factor being what types of resources the ACEC would be designated to protect.

With this complex and uncertain basis, and assuming the proposal is for only cultural and wildlife resources, the following impacts are anticipated: reduction in the natural condition, solitude opportunities, scenic values, and uniqueness relative to other established or proposed wilderness areas in the CDCA; improvement in ecological uniqueness and diversity and historical and cultural values.

It should be noted that Bureau policy states that ACEC designation is not to be used as an alternative to recommendation as suitable for wilderness. ACEC designations may complement other forms of management. The ACEC Policy and Procedures Guidelines state that "An area designated by Congress for special management, such as....a Wilderness Area, may contain one or more ACEC." (p. 23). This case may be one where the strengths of both forms of designation may provide the best form of management for the outstanding and unique values present.

Livestock Grazing

This amendment would have a positive impact of the ACEC management prescriptions allowing livestock grazing operation to continue as status quo. Under this amendment, range improvements could be more easily constructed and maintained but only because of easier access.

Wild Horse and Burro

There would be no significant impact as no horses or burros are proposed to be retained in this region.

Minerals

The mineral potential for this area was analyzed in the Saline Valley GRA and in the Management Summary dated June 7, 1982. Both pre and post-FLPMA claims exist in the study area. Should the pre-FLPMA claims be able to demonstrate a discovery as of October 21, 1976 and a discovery at the present time, these claims could represent a valid existing right. The non-impairment standard may not necessarily apply to operation in these claims if the non-impairment standard unduly interferes with the benefits to be enjoyed by the claim. The post-FLPMA claims would be fully subject to the Interim Management Policy and 43 CFR 3802.1-5(c)(3), and would probably preclude any large-scale development of a mineral deposit, if ore is located in the future.

As noted in map 4-3, this WSA has been classified as low-to-medium potential, based on today's metal prices. The red and blue areas on map 12b of the Plan indicated past production. Area A on the map contains such an area around the Lippincott mine. This mine produced at least 2,000 tons of lead-silver ore. This ore is classified as a category I mineral.

Area B has medium-to-low potential for the occurrence of Wollastonite. The Hunter Mountain deposit is just to the east of the boundary. Recent conversations between GSA Resources and Continental Minerals Company indicate it is ready to begin production upon the pre-FLPMA claims but are concerned about the exact boundary of the Class C area and when the unsuitable area containing the deposit would be released from non-impairment management. Resources are estimated at 25,000,000 tons. Wollastonite of this high grade and tonnage is rare in the CDCA. A good possibility exists that this deposit could infringe into the WSA in Area B.

Areas C-E are all classified as low potential. This should not be interpreted as having no mineralization since several copper and tungsten occurrences exist in the WSA. Because no additional field verification was performed, additional data must be gathered before a final determination can be made.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Class C management would provide a high level of protection for cultural

MINERAL POTENTIAL

WSA 123

Map 4-3



resources and wildlife and would prevent the possible impacts of increased human use.

See Amendment 28, Minerals Alternative B (No Action).

AMENDMENT FORTY-THREE:

CHANGE SAWTOOTH WSA AREA CA-060-024C FROM CLASS C TO CLASS L

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Acceptance of this amendment would complicate the management of the adjacent State Wilderness Area in that the natural integrity of Area C might be compromised with activities permitted in Class L area. Also, the boundaries of State Wilderness would be isolated and awkward to patrol.

Opportunities for future recommendation of Area C as suitable still exist but may be clouded if the area is remanded through this amendment to Class L designation. The naturalness of Area C may be compromised due to less stringent management constraints under Class L designation.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Manager Jim Hendrix was consulted regarding potential conflicts with State designated Wilderness areas contiguous with Area C if this amendment were to go into effect. He stated that it probably would not jeopardize the park's management prescriptions per se, but that it would be highly desirable to maintain wilderness status throughout this area to reach compatible management objectives of both BLM and California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDP&R).

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Should Amendment 45 be accepted, Area C would not be contiguous with the remainder of the suitable portion of the Sawtooth WSA. It is less than 5000 acres and therefore could not stand alone as wilderness. However, it is contiguous with an established State Wilderness Area and could qualify in that way.

The boundaries of Area C would be manageable regardless of the status of the bajada. However, the possibilities of trespass into Area C would be enhanced if the bajada was remanded to Class L status and access and development increased within the bajada.

Should Amendment 45 be rejected, Area C would be completely surrounded by recommended or designated wilderness, and should be manageable as such.

AMENDMENT FORTY-FOUR:
SAWTOOTH WSA: NORTHEAST CHERRYSTEMS

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

The amendment proposes the deletion of about 3 miles of cherrystemmed roads from the original proposal of about 7 miles, leaving 4 miles. The deleted portions occur deep within the WSA. This would remand some area (cherrystemmed roads) back into pure wilderness, enhancing the naturalness of the area and thus increasing wilderness values. The small addition of about one-fourth mile of cherrystemming would correct an inadvertant mistake in the original proposal which indicated a maintained road where none actually existed.

No negative impacts are anticipated.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Rejection of this amendment would result in 3 miles of cherrystemmed roads, ostensibly maintained, that go to no particular site of significance. Thus, the wilderness characteristics of upper Canabake Canyon would be compromised by roads that are marginal in nature and have no known purpose other than precarious access to the inner portions of the wilderness area.

AMENDMENT FORTY-FIVE:
SAWTOOTH WSA: MODIFY INNER PASTURE BOUNDARY

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

It is possible that with Class L designation the cultural resources of the bajada and surrounding area could be exposed to additional impacts due to increased activities and easier access to sites. On the other hand, access for legitimate cultural inventory and data recovery by recognized archaeologists would be enhanced.

Wildlife

Should the bajada immediately west of the Crawford Ranch be remanded to Class L designation, it is not known if future management actions allowed within Class L classification could jeopardise and/or interfere with the future reintroduction of bighorn sheep into the Sawtooth WSA, although such interference is possible.

Wilderness

The bajada and Class L area to the northeast, and area CA-060-024C to the south, are surrounded by State wilderness projects to the south and north and existing

BLM-recommended wilderness to the west. It is likely that since the State has now recommended their areas as wilderness that the Class L area northeast of the subject bajada will be considered for wilderness status in the future. Acceptance of this amendment will result in a 4-mile-wide "island" between the two State wilderness areas. Acceptance would move the wilderness boundary back from the sights and sounds of man around the Crawford Ranch.

Management of the State wilderness areas would be made more complicated due to increased exposure to non-wilderness areas. The BLM wilderness area remaining would be more easily managed as the proposed new boundary would be at a geographic point easily defined by on-the-ground features, such as Road A (see map in Appendix A).

However, it should be pointed out that with the bajada placed in Class L designation it is possible that additional sights and sounds of man may result within the bajada which could adversely affect the wilderness values of the remaining wilderness area.

Recreation

Several camping sites of excellent quality, suitable for vehicular use, would again be made available should legal access across private land be obtained. These sites would be excellent "jumping off" points for entrance into the wilderness area.

Other Uses

The existing apiary sites would benefit from the amendment in that they now would not be subject to automatic phase-out as called for in the MFP. Access would be less complicated and there would be opportunities for expansion and maintenance on land now largely precluded by wilderness status.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Cultural sites would be offered substantial protection in that access would be as limited as possible. Inventory and recovery operations would be severely hampered due to lack of access by motorized vehicles. On-going project work historically conducted in this area by universities would be largely curtailed.

Wildlife

The Wilderness category as now recommended could enhance wildlife survival and propagation by mandating that the area remain as natural as the policy and law call for.

Wilderness

Wilderness values would remain in closer proximity to the sights and sounds of man. However, additional non-wilderness activities would be precluded in the future as provided by law. The protection of natural qualities within the bajada and Area C would be strengthened.

Recreation

Several excellent, primitive, vehicular camping sites would be precluded from use. Because the access to the sites is across private land, an easement or right-of-way would have to be obtained before full utilization of these sites would be possible.

Other Uses

Apiary sites are stipulated to be phased out in the MFP. However, such options as cherrystemming exist which would protect the existing apiary sites and the ability to maintain access to them. This option is recognized and recommended in the existing WSA proposal for one of the sites. The other site could be provided for thru a specific amendment.

AMENDMENT FORTY-SIX: SAWTOOTH WSA: CHANGES IN THE POTRERO

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Wilderness

This is a two part amendment:

1. Addition of 2.75 miles of cherrystemmed roads.
2. Revision of the existing boundary to provide for ease of access and to provide for a more logical and manageable boundary.

Addition of the three new cherrystems to provide for access to water developments and apiary sites on maintained roads would detract from the wilderness qualities of the inner portions of the Potrero by maintaining the sites of man (the maintained roads). However, necessary access to the developed sites would be guaranteed by the action. It is foreseen that only minimal use would be made of these roads resulting in only sporadic interference with wilderness qualities. Manageability of the area would be complicated in that conflicts between wilderness users and apiary and water development maintainers would have to be coordinated to minimize the impacts.

Pulling the boundary back as the amendment outlines would provide for a more manageable boundary in that it follows geographical features and established fence lines. It also allows for access to the wilderness over BLM lands instead of the necessity of crossing private lands as would be required under the original proposal. This access could be provided from Highway S-2 across public lands northeast of the Potrero, from where the wilderness boundary has been pulled back.

It enhances wilderness qualities in that it further removes the boundary from the numerous sights and sounds of man located in the Vallicitos Valley, i.e., farm lands, a highway, a county park, cattle, an airstrip, and ranch buildings, etc.

Negative impacts would be the reducing of lands actually protected by wilderness status and allowing general motorized access about one-third of a mile further into the Potrero than the original proposal.

Recreation

Definite vehicular access over BLM administered lands would make it possible for wilderness users to cover about 4 miles in their vehicles as opposed to walking or riding horseback this distance, just to gain access to the wilderness threshold. (See discussion of access under "Wilderness" above). Hunter access, as well as general access, would be enhanced immensely, especially, into the inner Potrero.

Livestock Grazing

Vehicle access to developed water sites would be guaranteed for maintenance purpose. Range improvements would be exposed to possible additional damage by motorized vehicles.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wilderness

Rejection of this amendment would enhance wilderness characteristics since those primitive roads proposed for cherrystemming would remain within the WSA but would be subject to management under the more stringent constraints of wilderness policy and law. This in turn would enable management to limit use of the roads to the extent necessary to minimize the impact to those using the area as wilderness.

Additional lands would come under wilderness designation providing the additional protection and constraints on activities provided for by policy and law. However, the wilderness area would be close to several man made developments and considerable non-wilderness activity associated with ranching, farming, the highway and county park which would detract from a wilderness experience.

The original proposed boundary is less manageable as it is not associated with definite geographical boundaries, as the amendment boundaries are.

Livestock Grazing

No foreseen impacts other than the more stringent requirement and limitations imposed on the ranchers in their maintenance of the developed water sites and the associated improvements.

Vehicular damage to existing improvements would be far less likely to occur as vehicles would be barred from the additional lands within the WSA as provided for in the original proposal.

Recreation

Considerable impacts on Hunter access would result as hunters would have to walk or ride horseback some 4 miles further just to gain access into the area. This would be somewhat mitigated should public access be obtained across private lands. Acquiring this access across private lands could be very time consuming and expensive.

The same criteria applies to general access. It would be severely hampered by rejection of this amendment.

Other Uses

Existing apiary sites would be phased out within the WSA as required by previous decisions in the MFP and by policy. Even though apiary sites and a WSA are not really compatible, their impact on wilderness users would be minimal. The impact on the apiary owners would be significant due to the phase-out. These are prime sites for apiaries and replacement sites of this quality are scarce.

AMENDMENT FORTY-SEVEN:

CHANGE UPPER PLEASANT CANYON FROM CLASS L TO CLASS I

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Cultural Resources

Increased access could lead to slightly greater impacts on the cultural resources of the upper canyon, a region with a predicted site density of 0.6 to 4.8 historic sites and 2.8 to 3.2 prehistoric sites (coombs:1978a). There are 14 recorded sites. Impacts from mining activities would probably be no different than at present, as 3809 regulations would apply in both cases.

Wildlife

The proposed change would result in an increase in conflicting uses. Pleasant Canyon contains a major perennial stream with riparian habitat containing an excellent overstory of cottonwoods, willows and mesquite. The change to a less preservation-oriented Class would decrease the options available to the West Panamint Mountain Canyons Habitat Management Plan to be prepared for the area. Among the activities with major impacts on wildlife resources are mining and off-road vehicle use. Impacts would consist of increased disturbance to species requiring solitude, such as bighorn sheep and mule deer, and destruction of valuable riparian habitat. This riparian habitat is particularly attractive to migrating and breeding birds. Also susceptible to impact would be the Panamint alligator lizard, endemic to the northern desert ranges, and the Pacific treefrog, known only in a few desert locales. Several rare mammals could be affected including the Panamint Kangaroo Rat, the Panamint Chipmunk, the pallid bat, and the big brown bat.

Wilderness

The proposed amendment would result in minor adverse impacts on portions of two recommended non-suitable WSAs, WSA 136 (Surprise Canyon) and WSA 137A (Middle Park Canyon).

Minerals

See Amendment 19. If Amendment 2 is accepted, there would be no difference between mineral extraction policies in classes L and I.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Impacts on cultural resources and wildlife would continue at the present rate. If Amendment 2 is accepted, there would be no difference in policies regarding mineral extraction than there would be under Class I.

See also Amendment 29.

AMENDMENT FORTY-EIGHT:
CHANGE OLANCHA AREA FROM CLASS M TO CLASS I

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Present use of the area is light. This use level is not expected to change under a class change due to distance from major metropolitan areas. Accordingly, it would not represent a significant increase in available recreation opportunities.

Failure to restrict ORV traffic to roads, however, could lead to impacts on the valuable cultural resources of the area. Site densities of eight per square

mile are predicted; known sites include lithic scatters, quarries, temporary camps, and rock shelters. The region is also a seasonal Native American collection area.

The western portion of the area is rated as VRM Class III, moderate in visual resource quality, while the eastern portion is largely VRM Class II, or high. Thus, the entire area could be degraded in visual quality by the change to MUC Class I.

WSA 130 (North Coso Range) is entirely within the proposed Class I area. It's wilderness values are low (rated 134 out of 137 in the CDCA); however, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation exist due to the diverse topography. These would probably be reduced by the increased use allowed under Class I.

The northern quarter of WSA 131 (Coso Range) also lies within the proposed Class I areas. Changing the class from M to I would allow minor additional adverse impacts on the area's wilderness values. However, the southern portion of the WSA, which includes the more sensitive cultural and natural resources, would continue to be managed as Class L.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Existing demand for recreational use of this area is light. This use can be fully accommodated under Class M management. Existing routes of travel adequately meet demand and no change is needed for the Bureau to authorize the present light levels of competitive use.

AMENDMENT FORTY-NINE:

ALLOW STOPPING, PARKING AND CAMPING WITHIN 300 FEET OF ROADS

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

Increasing open camping from 100 feet to 300 feet on either side of existing routes would slightly benefit highly social groups, such as rockhounds, by allowing RVs to park in a circle, thereby increasing their enjoyment. However, it would triple the area susceptible to soil compaction and damage by all users. Groups going to known areas where grouping vehicles would do limited damage can seek special authorization without opening all areas to potential damage.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment

The present 100 foot camping and parking limit would be maintained. This could cause some problems for groups requiring larger areas for their camps. However, a significantly smaller area would be subject to soil compaction and other use-related impacts.

AMENDMENT FIFTY:
EXPAND ARROYO SALADA OPEN AREA

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

The expansion area is in a checkerboard ownership pattern; permission would have to be obtained from private landholders for travel across their lands. A Class I open area would be difficult to manage for this reason. Use of the area would be confined to a few major washes due to the area's rough, rocky terrain, essentially the same access route as is now available under Class M. The Desert Plan originally established an open area next to the State of California's Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) to facilitate and complement management. The State has not decided whether to continue its expansion of the SVRA; expansion of the BLM open area at this time would be no improvement of, or benefit, to off-road vehicle use above what is currently available in Class M.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Use would continue as at present. The terrain of the expansion area confines ORV use to a few major washes, so that those areas and routes that recreationists could use are already permitted for use under Class M.

AMENDMENT FIFTY-ONE:
CHANGE SHEEPHOLE WSA FROM CLASS C TO CLASS L

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

There would be no impacts on significant cultural resources.

Wildlife

The admission of vehicles into the area would cause increased disturbance to desert tortoise populations found in the valley floor and to bighorn sheep found in the Sheephole Mountains. However, vehicle use would be restricted to existing roads, of which there are few or none in the area.

Wilderness

Minor-to-moderate adverse effects on the wilderness values of the entire WSA. The WSA does not possess any significant unique ecological and geological features, scenic values are average, and the overall wilderness rating was only 63 out of 137 WSAs in the CDCA. However, the Sheephole Valley area is relatively pristine, one of the few remaining in the CDCA. While large-scale development would be prohibited under Class L guidelines, increased use under Class L could lead to some degradation in the natural values of this area. This could degrade the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation which the large, relatively pristine valley provides.

Minerals

The potential for mineral exploration and subsequent development would be increased since the non-impairment standard would not apply to this area.

Alternative B: Change Only Checkerboard Area

Cultural Resources

There would be no impacts on significant cultural resources.

Wildlife

There would be some increased disturbance to wildlife from increased human activity, especially mechanized equipment.

Wilderness

Eliminating the checkerboard area would leave only that portion of the WSA which would be relatively free from manageability problems as recommended suitable for wilderness. The Class L portion includes the northern third of Sheephole Valley, which would be impacted as described for Alternative A, although to a lesser extent.

The remaining suitable WSA would still be manageable as wilderness. However, the primary factor responsible for the original suitable recommendation - the sheer size and undeveloped nature of Sheephole Valley, which more than any other reason provides opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation - could be degraded by increased use in the Class L areas to the north.

Alternative C: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Rejection would continue a high level of protection for cultural resources and wildlife.

Wilderness values would not be affected, and would be protected from future degradation. However, the northern half of the WSA could experience manageability problems due to the checkerboard ownership pattern.

Rejection would probably preclude any development of mineral deposits located in the future due to the nonimpairment standard.

AMENDMENT FIFTY-TWO:

CHANGE WSA 148 (Greenwater Valley) FROM CLASS C TO CLASS L

Wildlife

There would be some increase in human disturbance to bighorn sheep found in the mountains.

Wilderness

The proposed alternative would allow moderate adverse effects on the wilderness values of 35,180 acres of present recommended suitable area. Most of this area is within Greenwater Valley, which is one of the few unintruded, expansive valleys in the CDCA. The valley contains relatively dense vegetation, which screens visitors from one another, allowing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined forms of recreation. Class L management would allow activities which could degrade the natural values of the WSA, which ranked 13 out of 137 in the CDCA. In addition, the area to be recommended non-suitable is adjacent to administratively-endorsed wilderness within Death Valley National Monument along a 15-mile boundary. The remaining suitable area (21,720 acres) would, however, be large enough to be manageable as wilderness.

Minerals

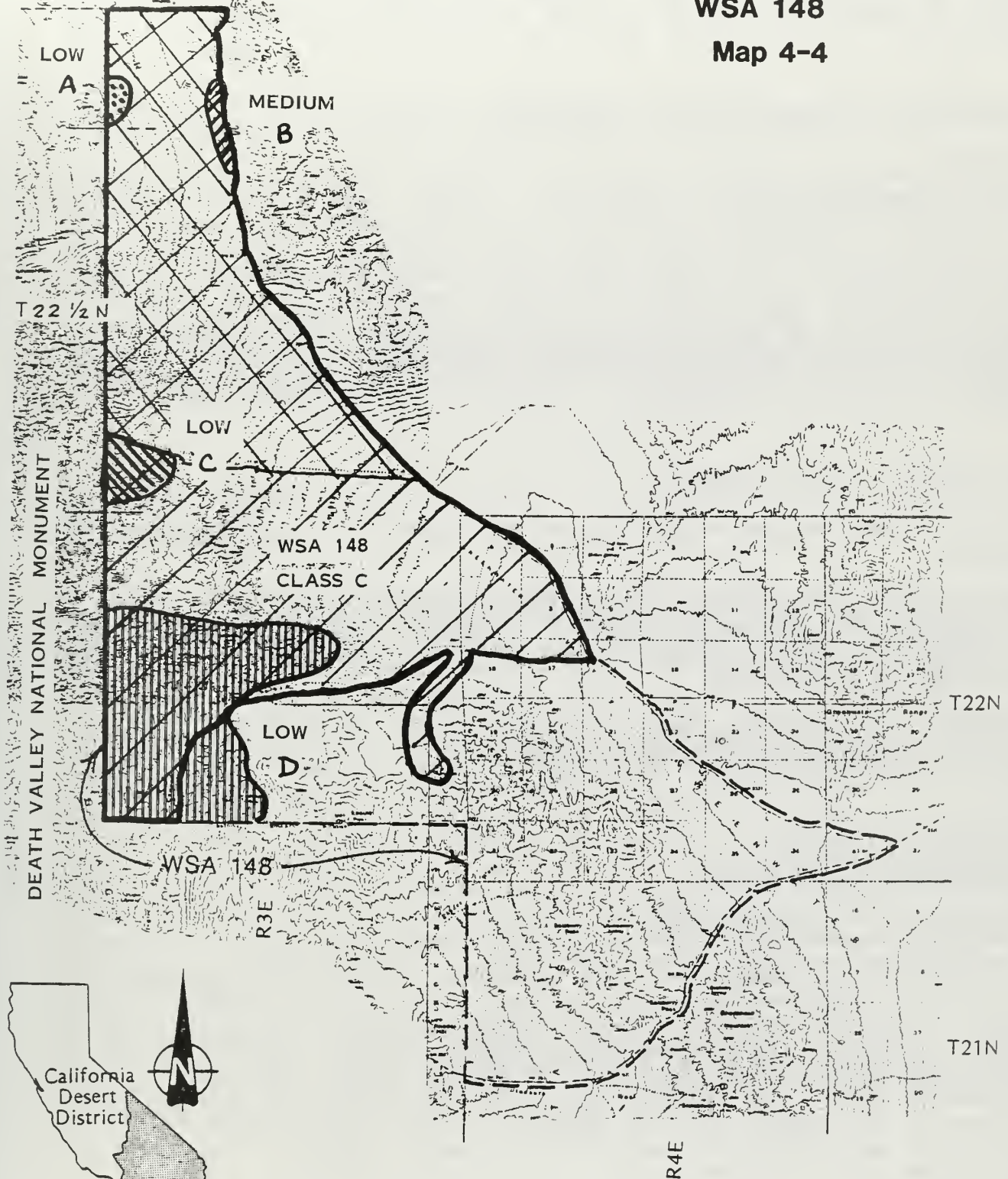
The mineral potential for this WSA was analyzed in the Greenwater Range GRA, dated May 1980, and the Management Summary prepared May 20, 1982. Based on a check of the July 1982 Microfiche, it appears that both pre and post-FLPMA mining claims exist within the study area. Should the pre-FLPMA claims be able to demonstrate a discovery as of October 21, 1976 and a discovery continuing to the present time, the non-impairment standard may not necessarily apply to operations on the claims, if this standard unduly interferes with the benefits to be enjoyed from the claim. The post-FLPMA claims would be fully subject to the Interim Management Policy and 43 CFR 3802.1-5(c)(3) which would probably preclude any large scale development of a mineral deposit, if one is located in the future.

The mineral potential for the area is indicated on map 4-4. Area A on the map is rated as low potential for copper. This is based on favorable rock types and occurrences outside the WSA. Area B is rated as medium potential for copper. Prospects occur within the study area. However, the main area of potential lies just outside the WSA boundary. This area is currently being explored. Area C is rated as low potential for the discovery of metallic minerals based on rock types favorable for copper mineralization. A stream sediment sample from within the study area was anomalous for copper and barium. Area D is rated as low potential for the discovery of metallic minerals based on the occurrence of rock types that occur in the study area that carry gold, silver, and lead south of the WSA. A stream sediment sample from within this area was anomalous for

MINERAL POTENTIAL

WSA 148

Map 4-4



chrome, nickel, and cobalt. The remainder of the area is rated as unknown potential for metallic minerals. Because no additional field verification was made, additional data must be gathered before a final determination can be made.

Alternative B: Change Northern Third of WSA

Wildlife

Same as for Alternative A.

Wilderness

Impacts on the 18,100 acres of the WSA to be recommended as non-suitable, Class L, would be similar to those described for Alternative A, although to a lesser degree. This area is adjacent to the administratively-endorsed Death Valley Wilderness along a 7-mile boundary.

Alternative C: Reject Amendment

Rejection would continue a high level of protection for cultural resources and wildlife.

The area would remain suitable for wilderness designation. This would keep a large portion of relatively unintruded Greenwater Valley within the national wilderness preservation system, preventing future degradation of the high natural values of this area.

Rejection would probably preclude any development of mineral deposits located in the future due to the non-impairment standard.

AMENDMENT FIFTY-THREE: DISPOSITION OF REJECTED WSAs

Alternative A: Accept Amendment

The amendment would effect the future management of those areas recommended as suitable for wilderness designation by the Desert Plan, but rejected by Congress. Instead of automatically being managed as Class L, the areas would be as managed only until the following plan amendment review, at which time future multiple-use classification would be determined through the Bureau's Plan amendment process. This would, in all probability, result in greater responsiveness to the reasons for which Congress rejected the recommendation. If a certain use was felt by Congress to be of greater importance than wilderness designation, this could be provided for by future management. Requiring its consideration by the Plan amendment process would assure greater public input

and awareness of the decision. Any changes in MUC class would likely be to allow less protection-oriented activities to occur, although such activities may not necessarily have a deleterious impact on the natural values of the former WSA. This would be determined on a case-by-case basis by the EA or EIS prepared for the amendment.

Alternative B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

The present policy would continue: all rejected areas would automatically be classified as multiple-use Class L. Consideration of future management through the Plan amendment process would not be mandatory, although such a reconsideration could occur if proposed by the Bureau or by the public. The lack of a mandatory requirement could make the process somewhat less responsive to those reasons for which the wilderness recommendation was rejected. However, it would also grant the greatest level of protection to the wilderness and natural values possessed by the former WSA. This is because most changes in MUC class would allow less protection-oriented activities to occur, which might have the potential to impact those values.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cultural Resources

A number of areas which were originally proposed as ACECs were not accepted as ACECs because they were in Class L and it was felt that Class L guidelines sufficiently protected the resources. These areas were denied ACEC status not because resource values were low, but because of the land status classification. However, many of the amendments would change these classifications. As a result, these areas are losing their protection, and resources considered significant enough for ACEC status are being placed at risk. Amendment 5 (Panamint Valley) is a perfect example. Panamint Valley was recommended as an ACEC to protect both cultural resources and wildlife. The land-use classification was felt to be sufficient protection, so no ACEC was designated. A similar situation exists near Palen Dry Lake in a portion of the former Sidewinder Well ACEC that was deleted because it was in Class L. Seven other proposed cultural ACECs were not designated because it was felt that Class L would provide adequate protection. These seven are Blackwater Well, Paymaster Mine, South McCoy Mountains, Warm Sulphur Spring/Ballarat West Well, Willow Creek, and Zinc Hill. One area of potential impacts occurs at South McCoy Mountains, which contain a major petroglyph.

A second cumulative impact involves open area spillover. Cultural resource values in areas surrounding existing open areas may be badly disturbed by users who may be unaware they are beyond the open area boundary. This has occurred around the Razor open area and in the Grapevine Canyon area.

Livestock Grazing

All grazing classification changes from restrictive to more use will have impact on livestock grazing by resulting in more "people conflicts" with livestock. With these changes, more vandalism of range improvements will occur as more access is provided. Class C does restrict range improvement development, but as a general rule, the more restrictive the land-use classification, the better for livestock operations.

Wilderness

An amendment may propose a multiple-use class change within a wilderness study area, a change that was not considered by any of the alternatives presented in either the California Desert Plan or the Eastern San Diego Planning Unit EIS. When this occurs, the change must be considered a new wilderness alternative for that WSA which must be addressed by the Bureau's wilderness study process.

Twenty alternatives were generated by the 1982 amendments, and are listed by WSA in table 4-6. Ten would be accepted under the preferred alternative proposed for this EIS. The specific amendment maps in Appendices A and B indicate the boundaries of the class changes in the WSAs. Impacts of each new wilderness alternative have been addressed by the specific analysis of each of the plan amendments which generated the alternative. The cumulative impacts of both accepting and rejecting all the wilderness alternatives, as well as of the preferred alternative are presented in table 4-7.

Multiple-use class changes proposed by an amendment, and which have previously been considered, do not generate a new wilderness alternative. Three such changes were proposed by the 1982 amendments:

- 1) Recommend WSA 123 (Hunter Mountain) as non-suitable, Class L.
- 2) Recommend WSA 186C (Black Mountain) as non-suitable, Class M.
- 3) Recommend WSA 218 (Morongo) as suitable.

Motorized Vehicles

All the new open areas and dry lakes are proposed to recognize existing use patterns. Adopting the amendment would have no effect whatsoever on existing recreation use. They would not displace use, but may attract additional use to a slight degree. No quantification is possible at this time.

Cumulative impacts on the resources described above, as well as on wildlife, are summarized in table 4-8.

Table 4-6
New Wilderness Alternatives
Generated by Plan Amendments

WSA	Amendment (s) Generating Alternative	Description of Alternative	EIS Preferred Alternative
CA-060-024 (Sawtooth)	43, 44, 45, 46 (Eastern San Diego MFP)	Same as recommended by the Eastern San Diego MFP, except that 5,920 acres along the northern and northeastern boundaries would be managed as Class L rather than C, and several cherrystems would be modified.	Accept
117 (Saline Valley)	27	Same as final Plan recommenda- tion except for recommending 1,010 acres in northern tip as non-suitable, Class M, near Victor Cons Mine.	Accept
127 (Panamint Dunes)	5	Same as final Plan recommenda- tion, except recomend 10,550 acres surrounding the Panamint Dunes as non-suitable, Class L. Open the dunes to limited dune- buggy use.	Accept
130 (North Coso Range)	48	Non-suitable for wilderness; manage as Class I.	Reject
131 (Coso Range)	48	Non-suitable for wilderness; manage northern 5,990 acres as Class I, southern 15,560 acres as Class L.	Reject
136 (Surprise Canyon)	47	Recommend as non-suitable, Class L except for 3,520 acres near Pleasant Canyon, which would be managed as Class M.	Reject
137A (Middle Park Canyon)	47	Recommend as non-suitable, Class L except for 3,520 acres near Pleasant Canyon, which would be managed as Class M.	Reject

WSA	Amendment(s) Generating Alternative	Description of Alternative	EIS Preferred Alternative
145 (Resting Springs Range)	39	Recommend 15,100 acres in northern tip and southwest of Baxter Mine as non-suitable, Class L and 12,480 acres near Baxter Mine as non-suitable, Class M. Provide a cherry stem to Baxter Mine. This amendment has been mitigated as follows: That portion of the WSA within T. 24 N., R. 7 E., would remain Class C. Total area changing from C to M would be 6,280 acres.	Accept
148 (Greenwater Valley)	52A	Recommend 21,720 acres as suitable and 35,180 acres in north as non-suitable, Class L.	Accept
	52B	Recommend 38,800 acres as suitable and 18,100 acres in north as non-suitable, Class L.	Reject
150 (Nopah Range)	28, 29	Same recommendation as for final Plan, except recommend 1,710 acres near Shaw Mine as non-suitable, Class M and 7,860 acres in the Resting Springs Range as non-suitable, Class L.	Accept
157 (Little Lake Canyon)	41	Recommend 8,160 acres north of Sacatar Trail as suitable, and remaining 17,040 acres as non-suitable, Class L.	Reject
217 (Bighorn Mountains)	34	Same as final Plan, except recommend 13,600 acres east of Rattlesnake Canyon as non-suitable, Class L.	Accept
	36	Same as for Amendment 34, except recommend 4,610 acres around Black Mountain as suitable.	Reject

WSA	Amendment (s) Generating Alternative	Description of Alternative	EIS Preferred Alternative
242 (Soda Mountains)	21A	Recommend 62,650 acres as non-suitable, Class L, and 49,600 acres southwest of Soda Mountains as non-suitable, Class M.	Reject
	21B	Recommend 104,570 acres as non-suitable, Class L, and 7,680 acres southwest of West Cronese Lake as non-suitable, Class M.	Accept
250 (Kelso Dunes)	31, 32	Same as final Plan, except recommend 8,960 acres in west and north as non-suitable, Class L, and Section 35, T. 11 N. R. 12 E., as non-suitable, Class M.	Accept
271 (Woods Mountain)	30	Recommend 11,520 acres near Woods Mountain suitable and 43,230 acres in the Hackberry Mountains as non-suitable, Class L.	Reject
305 (Sheephole Mountains)	51B	Recommend 67,840 acres in Checkerboard land ownership area as non-suitable, Class L and the remaining 68,160 acres as suitable.	Reject
348 (Chuckwalla Mountains)	25	Same as in final Plan, except recommend 8,450 acres near the Red Cloud Mine as non-suitable, Class M.	Accept

Table 4-7
Cumulative Impacts on Wilderness Values
of Amendment-Generated Wilderness Alternatives
(CDCA Wilderness Alternatives)

Wilderness Value	Eis Preferred Alternative	All Wilderness	No Wilderness
<u>MUC Acreage Change</u>			
C to L	85,570	0	102,610
C to M	9,640	0	9,640
L to M	16,130	0	46,900
M to I	0	0	14,090
L to C	0	16,130	0
<u>Natural Condition</u>	Minor reduction in values. Greatest potential degradation in highly localized areas such as Shaw Mine, Baxter Mine areas. Most significant large-scale degradation in Cronese Basin (WS 242) and Panamint Valley (WSA 127). Impacts concentrated in Inyo County WSAs.	Minor enhancement; total acreage very small.	Same as preferred alt. In addition, Olancho area could be degraded.
<u>Solitude Opportunities</u>	Minor reduction.	Minor enhancement.	Minor reduction.
<u>Primitive and Unconfined Recreation Opportunities</u>	Minor reduction.	Minor enhancement.	Minor reduction.
<u>Ecosystems Present and Ecological Uniqueness and Diversity</u>	Low-to-moderate change. Two large relatively unintruded areas (Sheephole and Greenwater Valleys) no longer in NWPS.	Little or no change.	Same as preferred alt.
<u>Landforms Present and Geological Uniqueness and Diversity</u>	None	None	None

<u>Wilderness Value</u>	<u>Eis Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>All Wilderness</u>	<u>No Wilderness</u>
<u>Scenic Values</u>	Potential minor loss in scenic quality; local visual intrusions may be evident in several areas.	No significant change.	Same as preferred alt.
<u>Adjacent Existing or Proposed Wilderness</u>	One class C area (Greenwater Valley WSA) adjacent to Death Valley National Monument wilderness on a 14-mile boundary would become Class L.	No significant change.	Same as preferred alt.
<u>Manageability</u>	No manageability problems except Panamint WSA, where enforcement plant would need to be developed.	No significant change.	Same as preferred alt. In addition, manageability problems could occur in Olancho area.
<u>Previous Recreation Use</u>	Use of Panamint Dunes by motorized vehicles prior to closure would be reinstated.	No impact.	Same as preferred alt.
<u>Historical and Cultural Values</u>	Potential significant degradation in Panamint WSA.	No impact.	Potential significant degradation in Panamint WSA and in Olancho and Cronese Basin areas.
<u>Proximity to Urban Centers</u>	Potential decrease in access, although most changes relatively distant from urban centers.	Increase in opportunities near urban centers; two WSAs (Bighorn Mountain and Morongo) are quite close to metropolitan Los Angeles.	Same as preferred alt.

Table 4-8
SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>New Percent Of Desert</u>
<u>Multiple Use Class (Desert)</u>					
C	Acres	2,083,000	1,844,650	-11%	15.3%
L	Acres	5,864,000	6,002,180	+2%	49.5%
M	Acres	3,356,000	3,429,420	+2%	28.3%
I	Acres	503,000	522,610	+4%	4.3%
Unclassified	Acres	314,000	314,000	N/A	2.6%
<u>Multiple-Use Class (East San Diego)</u>					
C	Acres	41,776	35,856	-14%	36.3%
L	Acres	42,510	48,430	+14%	49.0%
M	Acres	14,616	14,616	0%	14.8%
<u>Cultural Resources and Native American Values</u>					
Areas Receiving Greater Protection					
Halloran Wash	Acres	0	1,130	N/A	
Areas Which May Suffer Significant Adverse Impacts					
Crucero/Mesquite Hills ACEC	Acres	0	1,550	N/A	
Cronese Lake ACEC	Acres	0	2,000	N/A	
Juniper Flats ACEC	Acres	0	3,107	N/A	
Total	Acres	0	6,657	N/A	
Very High Sensitivity Areas Affected					
Closed to Open	Acres	0	2,973	N/A	
Class C to Class L	Acres	0	8,278	N/A	
Class C to Class M	Acres	0	0	N/A	
Class L to Class M	Acres	0	19,346	N/A	
<u>Wildlife</u>					
ACECs Added	Acres		0	260	N/A

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
HMPs Affected ¹				
I	Number	0	1	N/A
	Acres	0	13,900	N/A
M	Number	0	3	N/A
	Acres	0	43,900	N/A
L	Number	4	1	N/A
	Acres	57,800	5,900	N/A
C	Number	1	0	N/A
	Acres	5,900	0	N/A
Bighorn Sheep Habitat ^{2,3}				
Affected				
I	Acres	0	0	N/A
M	Acres	0	4,000	N/A
L	Acres	4,000	29,500	N/A
C	Acres	29,500	0	N/A
Desert Tortoise Habitat ^{2,4}				
Affected				
I	Acres	0	0	N/A
M	Acres	0	51,500	N/A
L	Acres	51,500	51,000	N/A
C	Acres	51,000	0	N/A
Mohave Ground Squirrel ^{2,5}				
Crucial Habiata Affected				
I		0	0	N/A
M		0	4,100	N/A
L		4,100	0	N/A
C		0	0	N/A
<u>Livestock Grazing*</u>				
Ephemeral Allotments	Number	18	16	-11
	Acres	1,610,699	1,517,879	-6
Ephemeral/Perennial Allotments	Number	63	65	+3
	Acres	2,247,906	2,667,731	+16
Perennial Allotments	Number	13	13	0
	Acres	749,668	749,668	0
<u>Recreation</u>				
Open Sand Dunes	Number	4	5	+75
Dry Lakes - Open	Number	7	7	0
- Partially	Number	3	7	+133

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>No Action</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
<u>Motorized Vehicle Access</u>				
Open	Acres % of CDCA	503,000	523,000	+4
Limited	Acres % of CDCA	9,220,000	9,418,000	+5
Closed	Acres % of CDCA	2,089,000	1,864,000	-10
Point-to-point race courses/corridors	Number	3	4	53

¹ Acreage figures represent only those acreages not changed if the "preferred alternative" is rejected.

² Acreage figures represent only those acreages not changed if the "preferred alternative" is rejected.

³ Includes all permanent, seasonal, and transient bighorn sheep range.

⁴ Includes all tortoise habitat estimated at more than 20 tortoises per square mile.

⁵ Crucial habitat is that portion of the range selected in the Desert Plan for specific management of the species.

MITIGATION

The following mitigation measures will be required by BLM under the conditions listed. Table 4-9 presents the impacts requiring mitigation, the mitigation measures, and the effectiveness of that mitigation.

Table 4-9
Mitigation Measures

Amendment	Impact	Mitigation	Effectiveness of Mitigation
5	Degradation of wilderness, wildlife, and cultural resource values from lack of enforcement of controls on off-road vehicle use. Adjacent wilderness would not be manageable.	An enforcement plan will be developed at time of implementation. BLM would solicit suggestions, which could include a free use permit system, cooperative management and support by recognized volunteer groups.	Will curtail "spillover" impacts into adjacent Class C areas, and improve wilderness manageability. Will not prevent serious impact on cultural resources or wildlife.
6	<p>The following cultural sites which will require National Register documentation, are directly on race course and would be subject to high direct impacts from the Barstow-to-Vegas race:</p> <p>4-SBr-2154 4-SBr-2219 4-SBr-2220 4-SBr-2161 CA-069-152 CA-069-153</p>	<p>Clearly mark course with line and flagging.</p> <p>In addition, for CA-069-152, Cordon off site during race. Station checkpoint at course turn near site. For CA-069-153, flag area which is off-limits to spectators. Station monitors at pit areas.</p>	Race participant compliance would prevent site damage.
6	Cultural site 4-SBr-3174 lies between the access road the the spectator area and could suffer high direct impact.	Site collection.	Site information content salvaged.
6	Petroglyphs, pottery, and lithics at Halloran Spring off-ramp may suffer medium indirect impacts from spectators entering spring area.	Post spring area and patrol.	Site damage prevented.

Amendment	Impact	Mitigation	Effectiveness of Mitigation
6	Cultural sites CA-069-151 and 4-SBr-906, 906A, 906B 906C (agave roasting pits subject to low to moderate direct impact.	Clearly mark course with line and flagging. Photograph and map site CA-069-151.	Site damage prevented.
39	Changing suitability recommendation of WSA 145 north of Baxter Mine from C to L would decrease suitability of remaining Class C land. This area possesses only low to unclassified mineral potential.	No Class C lands in T. 24 N., R. 7 E., would be changed to Class L.	Reduction in suitability problems.

UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Those adverse impacts which would still occur after mitigation has been applied are summarized below:

<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Preferred Alternative Unavoidable Adverse Impact</u>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Destruction of valuable archaeological sites-Wildlife habitat degradation and disturbance of animals by noise
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Temporary increases of oxidants, carbon monoxide and dust near course-Indirect impacts on archaeological sites-Conflicts with other recreation uses at points along course-Degredation of wildlife and vegetation resources in camping and start cone areas-Potential for low level impacts on sensitive vegetation along route, with moderate impacts on the shadscale scrub UPA-Moderate to high impacts on 341 acres of desert tortoise habitat with populations of greater than 20 per square mile.-Disturbance of bighorn sheep in Clark Mountains
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Long-term loss of most archaeological values present-Possible spillover of use into Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC-Degredation of wildlife habitat-Degredation of visual quality
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Potential destruction of archaeological sites on lake shorelines-Increased disturbance of wildlife at Superior and Harper dry lakes
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Livestock disturbance of archaeological values and Cady Mountain bighorn sheep herd
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Increased impacts on archaeological values near Cronese Lake-Increased disturbance of wildlife, including waterfowl and bighorn sheep
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Disturbance of archaeological sites (this area includes the Crucero/Mesquite Hills ACEC)-Bighorn-livestock conflicts in the Bristol and Old Dad Mountains
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Possible impacts on endemic dune wildlife species
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Potential damage of cultural resources in adjacent Black and Opal Mountains from use spillover-Potential impacts on wildlife from use spillover

Amendment

Preferred Alternative
Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

- 21 -Some adverse impacts on archaeological sites in southwest portion of Cronese Lake ACEC
- 22 -Increased impacts on an area of high archaeological and Native American sensitivity, particularly in the north-central portion of this area
-Conflicts with Granite/Newberry Mountains Raptor Breeding Area
-Loss of forage for and increased harassment of livestock in three grazing allotments
- 25 -Lower level of protection for historic mining sites
- 26 -Disturbance of wildlife by increased noise
-Destruction of several rare plants
- 28 -Disturbance of bighorn sheep migration corridor
- 29 -Lower level of protection for sensitive cultural resources in this area
-Disturbance of transient bighorn range
-Minor degradation of wilderness values
- 34 -Potential for impact on a rare plant, Erigeron parishii
- 39 -Disturbance of transient bighorn range.
-Degradation of natural values within 30 square miles of the Resing Springs WSA
- 43 -Not entirely compatible with surrounding Anza-Borrego Desert State Park wilderness areas
- 45 -Increased access to archaeological sites
-Possibility for increased interference with future reintroduction of bighorn sheep in Sawtooth Mountains
-Creation of "island" of class L within state-designated wilderness
- 51 -Some degradation of wilderness values possible in Sheephole Valley
- 52 -Increased disturbance of bighorn sheep
-Some degradation of wilderness values within relatively unintruded Greenwater Valley.

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

CHAPTER V

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

NOTICES AND MEETINGS

The invitation for proposals for 1982 amendments to the California Desert Plan and the Eastern San Diego County Management Framework Plan was made at the CDCA Multiple Use Advisory Council (MUAC) meeting held in Needles, California on February 5, 1982. An announcement was mailed to 13,000 individuals, organizations, businesses, and governmental agencies in mid-February. It listed the criteria for evaluating amendment proposals and the final date for public input, May 17, 1982. Federal Register notices appeared on February 25, 1982 (Vol. 47, No.38) and March 5, 1982 (Vol. 47, No. 44) and a news release was issued on March 16, 1982.

Proposed amendments were reviewed by a subcommittee of the MUAC at the Desert District Office in Riverside on May 25, 1982. Their recommendations were presented to the full Council and the public at the June 3-4 MUAC meeting in Ridgecrest, California. This meeting, which also served as a scoping meeting for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was announced in the Federal Register on April 30, 1982 (Vol. 47, No. 84, p. 18677). The Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published on May 11, 1982 (Federal Register Vol. 47, No. 91, p. 20909).

PUBLIC INPUT

The public responded to the February 1982 call for amendment proposals with 52 letters.¹ The majority of the response emphasized Plan changes rather than general opinions on care and use of the California desert. Thirty-one letters contained slightly over 100 Plan changes. Eight letters presented 99 proposals, several of which duplicated each other as shown in Appendix D.

Plan changes suggested were not only numerous but extremely diverse, ranging from small clarifications in wording or a change of land use classification for one section of land to total closure of a popular "open" area or redesignation of 14 recommended Class C, or Wilderness Areas to Class M, Moderate Use.

In contrast to the 1981 amendment process, the public input period was not used for the airing of philosophical views or pleas for environmental protection or resource use. Emphasis was on Plan changes. Whereas in 1981 only 22 percent of respondents offered suggestions for Plan changes, this year 60 percent proposed amendments.

Another dissimilarity was that, whereas in 1981 the largest group of correspondents (over 25%) favored protection of desert ecology and resources and restriction of ORV use, this year protectionists were out numbered by those who spoke out for keeping the lands open for mineral exploration and development,

energy production, and recreational vehicle access (20 letters). These letters included comments favoring new administration policies (4) ORV access for family and individual recreation (10) and for mining (14). Numerous proposals to change to a less restrictive land-use classification in several areas which had been mined or were stated to have mineral potential or for areas desired for ORV recreational use.

Protection was stressed by 13 respondents who again mentioned ORV damage to the desert, and the need to save resources for future generations. There were requests to leave the Plan alone, to not reclassify Class L lands to Class M, and to designate new ACECs.

Proposals to stretch the boundaries of recommended Class C, or Wilderness Areas or to designate new suitable Class C areas were balanced or, more accurately, outweighed by requests to reclassify them as non-suitable.

Out of the 100 plus amendment proposals, 31 were recommended by the Multiple-Use Advisory Committee and approved by BLM management for consideration in the 1982 amendment process. Not included in this number were several requests for changes in the Motorized Vehicle Element made by both motorized vehicle users and conservationists. Bureau resource area staffs also had suggestions for revising and improving the Motorized Vehicle Element. Rather than address these requests individually, it was decided to try to incorporate them into a revision of the Motorized Vehicle Element which would be acceptable to all proponents. Representatives of motorcyclist, 4-wheel drive, and conservationist groups met with members of the Multiple-Use Advisory Council and the Bureau staff to reach consensus on the Motorized Vehicle Element revision offered in Amendment 3.

Amendment proposals which were not recommended for consideration in 1982 will be handled by other Bureau administrative action, deferred for consideration in a later amendment process, or dropped as inappropriate.

Administrative actions include consideration in activity plans for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) or Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) and a variety of procedures which are listed in Appendix D.

A few proposals were deferred because the staff time required for their consideration would have extended the time for the 1982 amendment process unreasonably. Many proposals to extend or delete areas recommended as suitable for Wilderness were deferred until U.S. Geological Surveys from the Bureau of Mines and mineral reports are available. Requests for grazing leases in recommended WSAs were deferred until Congressional action on wilderness designation.

Some proposals were dropped because the Bureau staff and its public Advisory Council (MUAC) agreed that they were not of sufficient importance to the public and the Bureau to be addressed at this time.

Appendix D summarizes the fate of each amendment proposal.

Since some amendments were offered by two or more proponents, the total of

amendments will not always add up as expected. A complete list of each writer's comments and requests would be too lengthy for publication here. All letters can be seen in the Desert District Office.

Footnotes

1. Sources of letters: individuals, 32; organizations, 9; businesses, 7; and governmental agencies, 6. Only one petition was included, signed by 45 persons.
2. The letters referred to are the following:
 - a. Motorcycle or ORV user groups: American Motorcyclist Association (Rick Hammel), 10; Vance Blair, 11; Richard Gochnaur (DART), 25.
 - b. Conservation groups: Sierra Club and Desert Protective Council, 11; Desert Tortoise Council 4.
 - c. California Department of Fish and Game, 15.
 - d. Inyo County, 9.
 - e. Lance Hinek (petition of 45 signatures), 14.

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GLOSSARY

Terms

- ALLOTMENT:** An area of land where one or more operators graze their livestock. It generally consists of public lands, but may include parcels of private or state-owned lands. The number of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of several pastures or be only one pasture.
- ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM):** (1) The amount of forage or feed required by an animal unit (i.e., one mature 1000-lb. cow or five sheep) for one month.
- (2) Tenure of one animal-unit for one month.
- AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC):** Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.
- CALIFORNIA DESERT PLAN ELEMENT:** A component of the California Desert Plan. Each element provides a more specific application of the multiple-use class guidelines for a specific resource or activity (such as wildlife or wilderness).
- CHERRYSTEM:** Fingerlike intrusions into a wilderness study area which are not themselves part of the WSA (for example, an access road).
- CLOSED AREA:** No vehicle travel is allowed in these areas. It applied to all wilderness areas when established by Congress unless exempted; where provided for by management plans in ACECs and on certain sand dunes and dry lakes.
- CULTURAL RESOURCES:** Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor, which are reflected in district sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture or natural features.

EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA: A region of the CDCA designated as a Special Area because of its unique cultural, scenic and recreation values. A management philosophy statement was published in the Federal Register on August 19, 1981. This statement will provide guidance during development of management plans for several special areas within the scenic area.

EPHEMERAL RANGE: Range consisting primarily of annual plants which varies in production annually according to fluctuation of precipitation and temperature.

EPHEMERAL/PERENNIAL RANGE: A range type intermediate between ephemeral and perennial range. Grazing is managed by first establishing a stocking rate based on the perennial forage, and then annually increasing that rate under the same procedures for ephemeral allotments.

FLPMA: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579, 90 Stat 2743, 43 USC 1701).

HABITAT: The natural environment of a plant or animal.

HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS: Wild horse and burro management areas. Seventeen were identified by the Desert Plan. Populations of the animals will be protected and managed within the areas through the development and implementation of Herd Management Area Plans (HMAP).

LEASEABLE MINERALS: Minerals such as coal, oil shale, oil and gas, phosphate, potash, sodium, sulphur in New Mexico and Louisiana, silica deposits in certain parts of Nevada, geothermal resources and all other minerals that may be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

LITHIC SCATTER: Stone debris left as a result of tool manufacture or reshaping.

LIVESTOCK OPERATOR: A person who grazes livestock on public land.

LOCATABLE MINERALS: Minerals that may be acquired under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP): A land-use plan for public lands which provides a set of goals, objectives, and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource.

MULTIPLE-USE CLASS: Public lands in the California desert have been placed in one of four management classes (except for 300,000 "unclassified" acres). Class C includes those lands recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. Class L provides for generally lower-intensity management. Class M provides a balance between higher intensity use and protection of public lands. Class I is an intensive-use zone.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The official list, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

OPEN AREA: An area in which motorized vehicles may travel anywhere. It applies to those areas in Class I specifically designated "open" and to certain sand dunes and dry lakebeds.

PERENNIAL RANGE: Range with a predominance of plants having a life cycle of three or more years.

PREFERENCE: Grazing privileges established following the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act, based on the use of the Federal range during the priority period. The active preference and suspended preference together make up the total grazing preference.

PUBLIC LAND: Land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

ROASTING PITS: Rock-lined pits, where plants (mainly agave) were processed.

ROCKSHELTERS: Small rock overhangs or caves usually found in mountainous areas. Some contain perishables.

ROCK ART/ROCK ALIGNMENTS: Rock art, including pictographs and petroglyphs, stove circles and rock walls.

SALABLE MINERALS: Minerals such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, cinders, pumice, pumicite and clay that may be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

UNUSUAL PLANT ASSEMBLAGES (UPA): Stands of vegetation within the CDCA which can be recognized as extraordinary for one or more factors. Factors can include unusual age, size, high cover or density, or disjunct from main centers of distribution.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: The planning, design, and implementation of visual resource management classes for all BLM resource management activities.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASS: The degree of alteration that is acceptable with the characteristic landscape. The classes are based upon the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogeneous area. Classes range from VRM Class I (least degree of alteration permitted) to Class IV (largest degree of alteration permitted).

WILDERNESS AREA: (1) An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(2) An area formally designated as part of the State of California's Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS NON-SUITABILITY: A management recommendation, based on the application of wilderness suitability criteria, that the best use of resources comprising a Wilderness Study Area would be met without designation of the WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, permitting uses which might not necessarily be comparable with wilderness values.

WILDERNESS REPORTING: The process of preparing the report on each wilderness study area and submitting that report to the President and Congress through the Department of the Interior.

WILDERNESS SUITABILITY: A management recommendation, based on the application of wilderness suitability criteria, that the best use of the resources comprising a Wilderness Study Area would be designation of the WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

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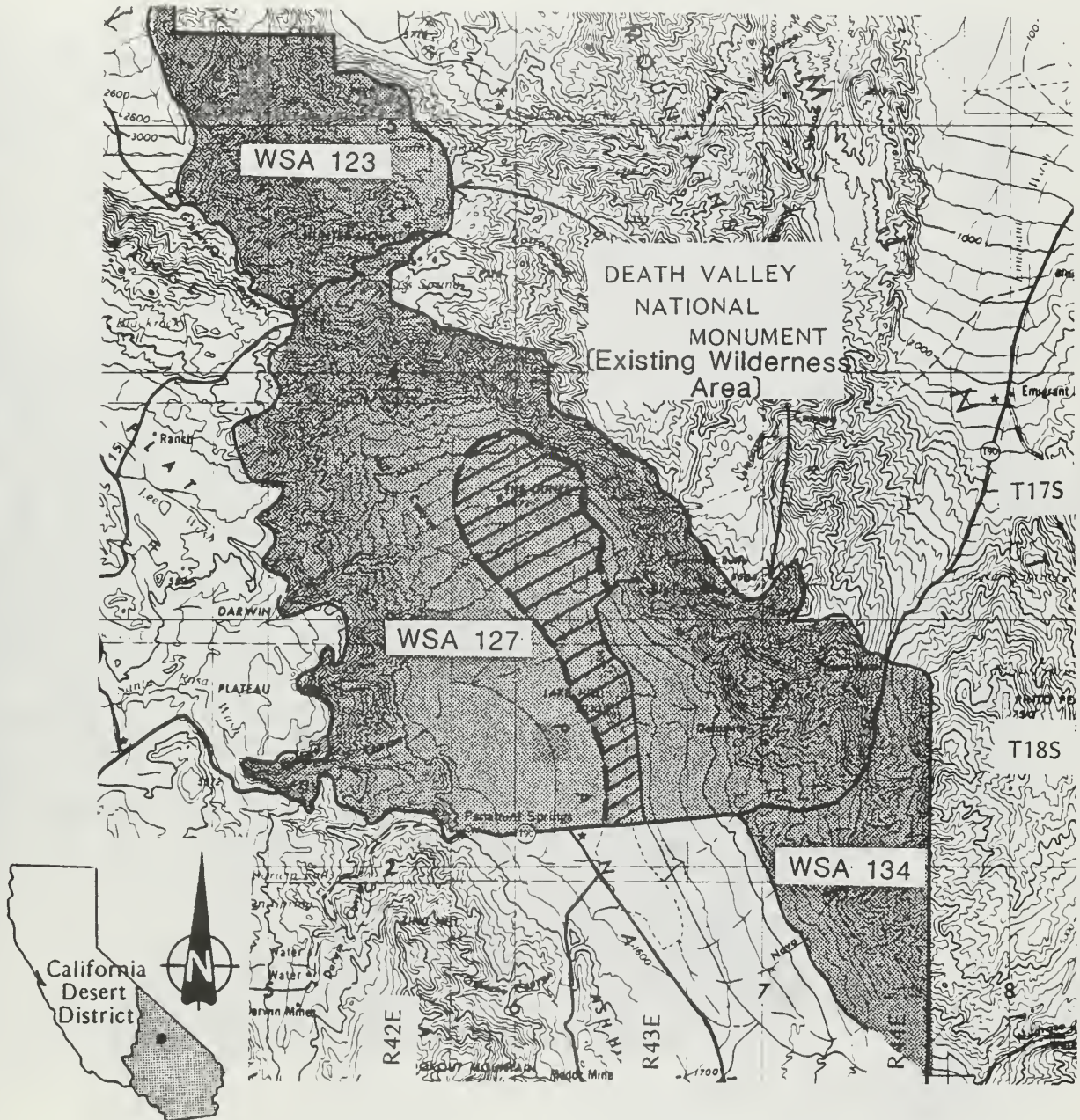
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
MAPS (EXCEPT BARSTOW TO VEGAS)

Amendment 5 PANAMINT DUNES (WSA 127)

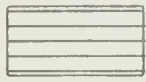


Change from "Closed" to "Open"

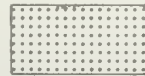


Amendment 7

RASOR OPEN AREA



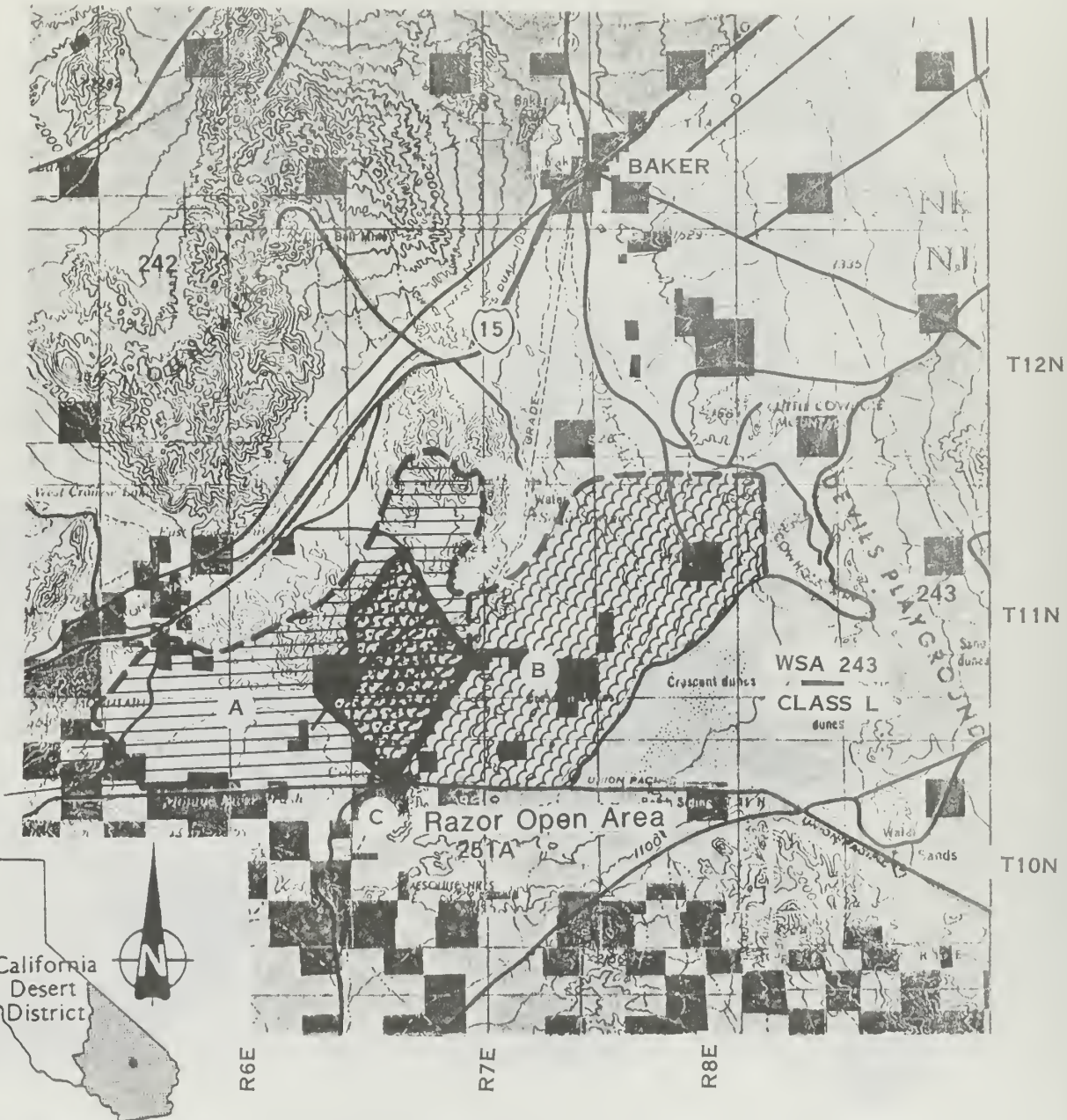
Alternative A
Expand west ("M" to "I")



Alternative C
Close Open Area
Change "I" to "M"



Alternative B
Expand east ("L" to "I")

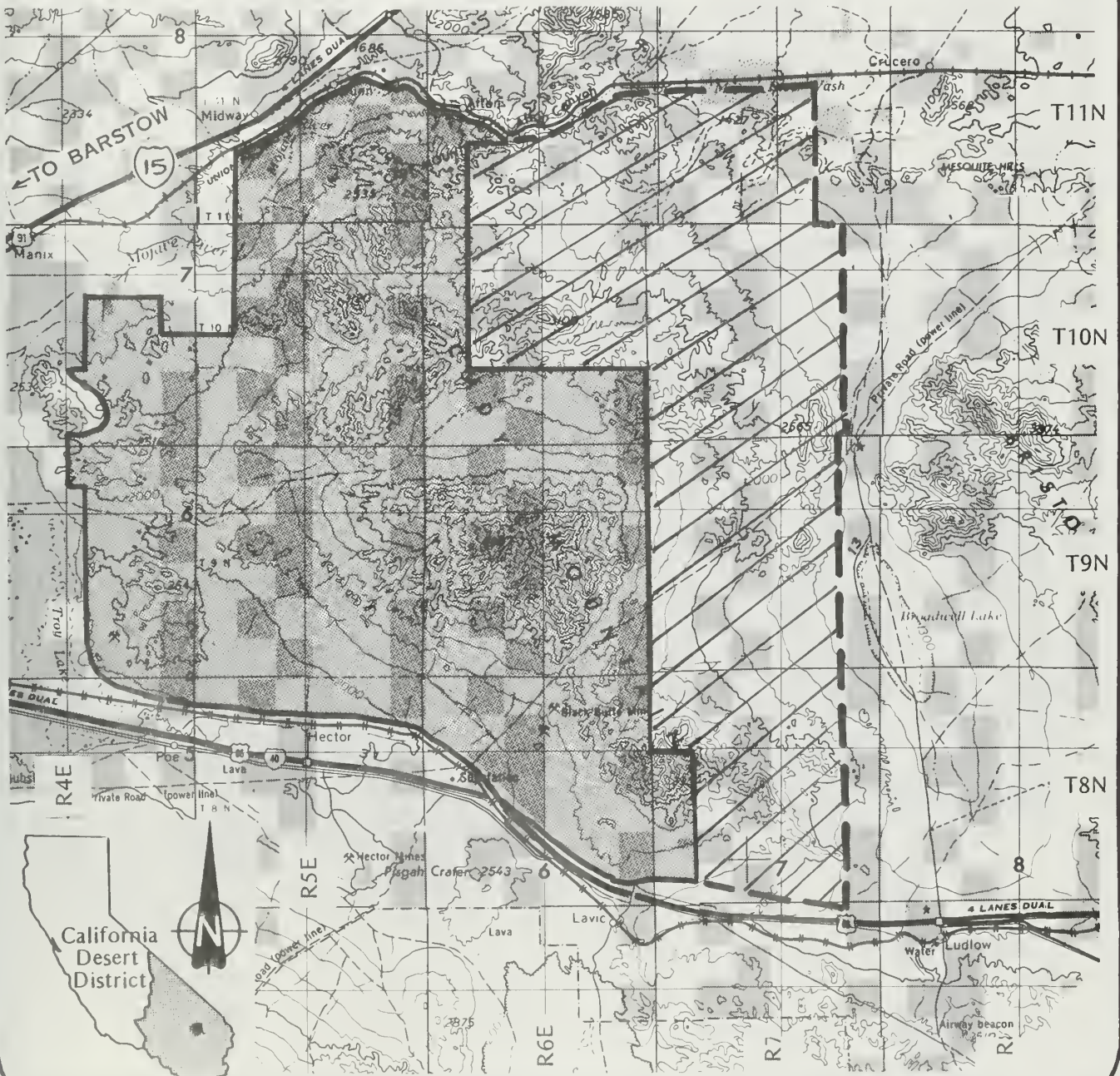


Amendment 10 AFTON CANYON Grazing Allotment



Existing allotment

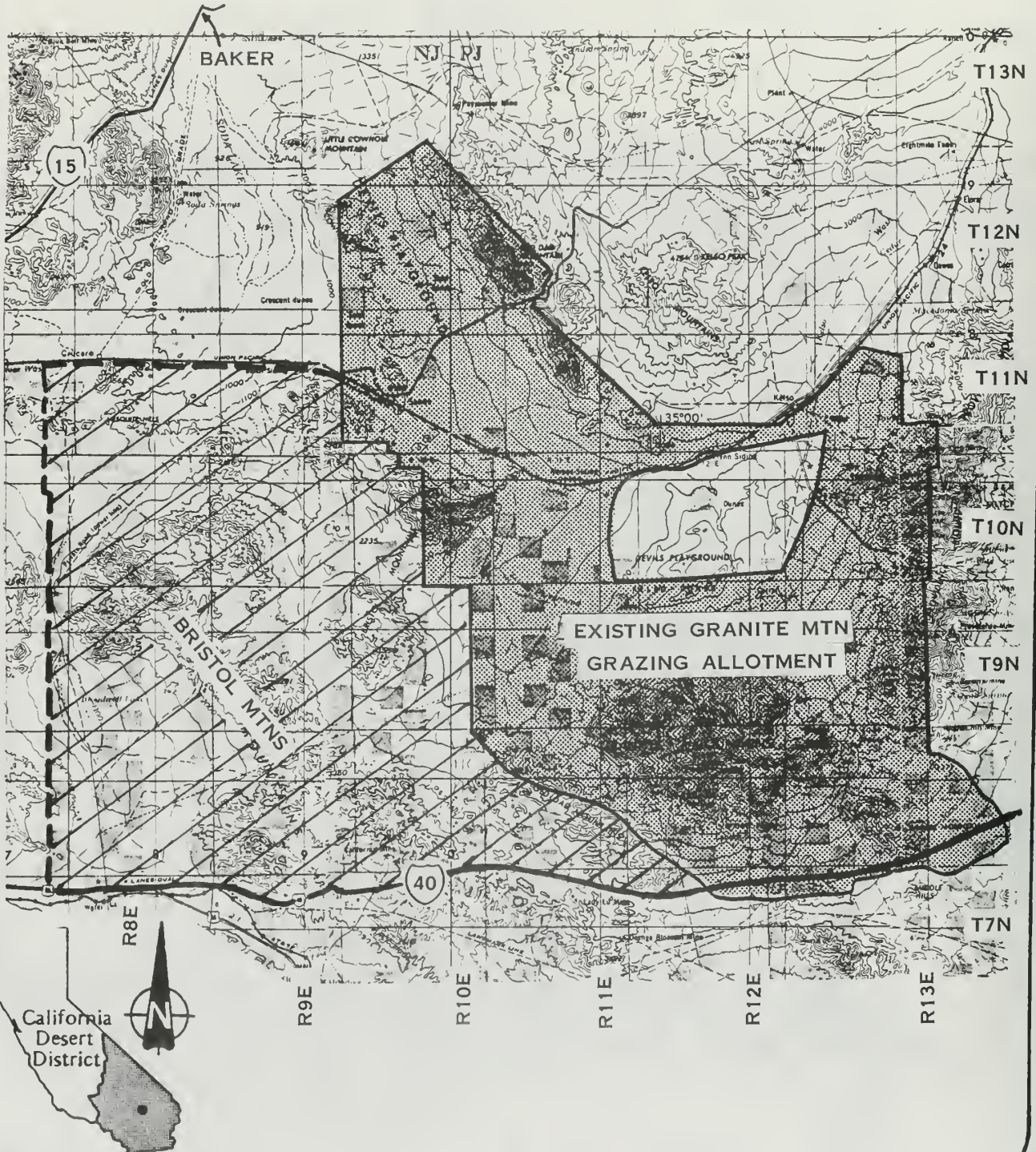
Proposed expansion



Amendment 12 GRANITE MTNS Allotment



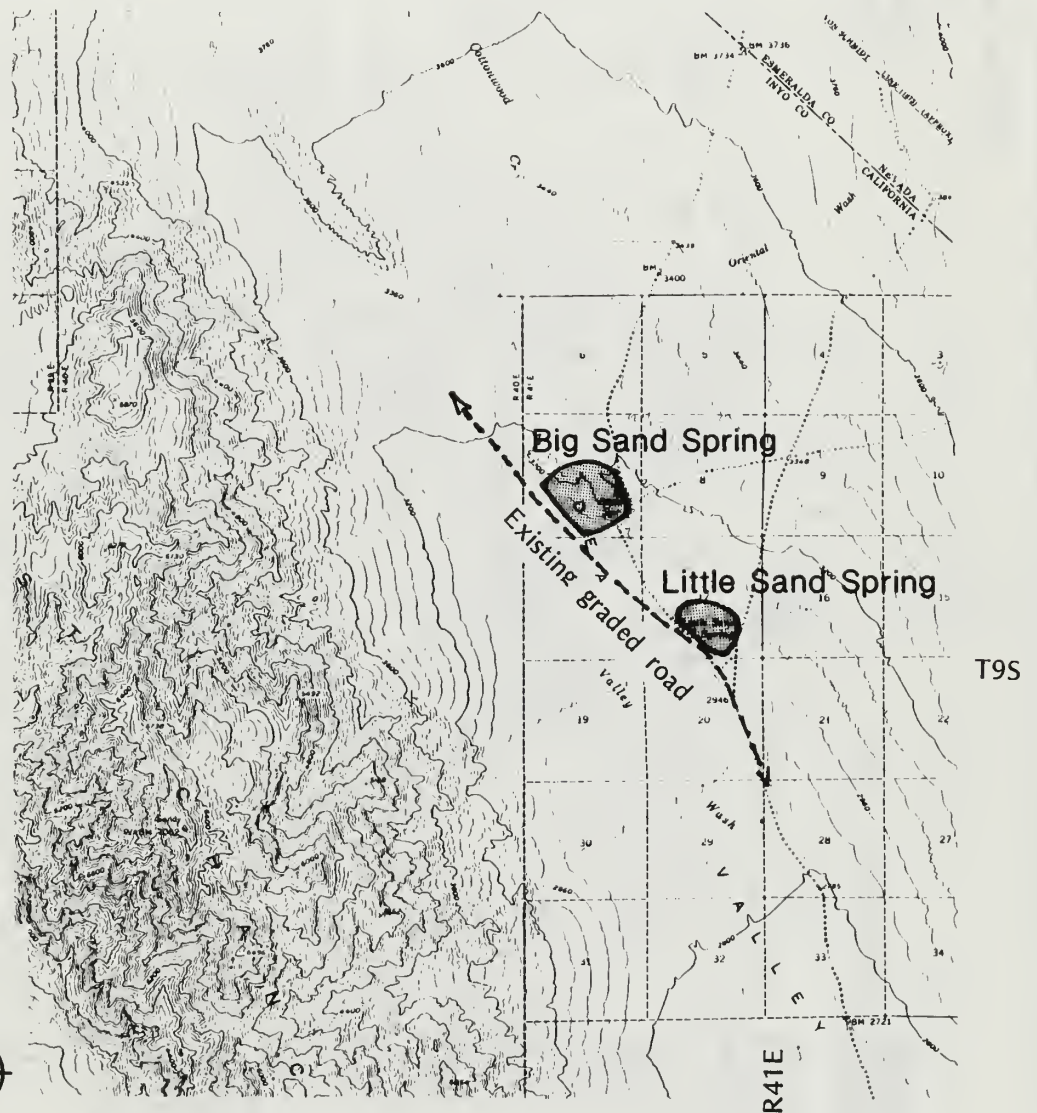
Alternative A
Proposed expansion



Amendment 15

BIG/LITTLE SAND SPRINGS

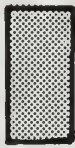
PROPOSED
NEW
ACEC SITE



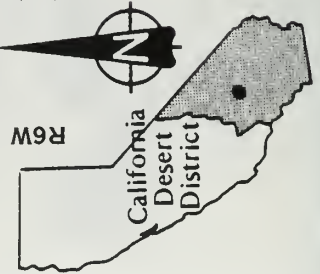
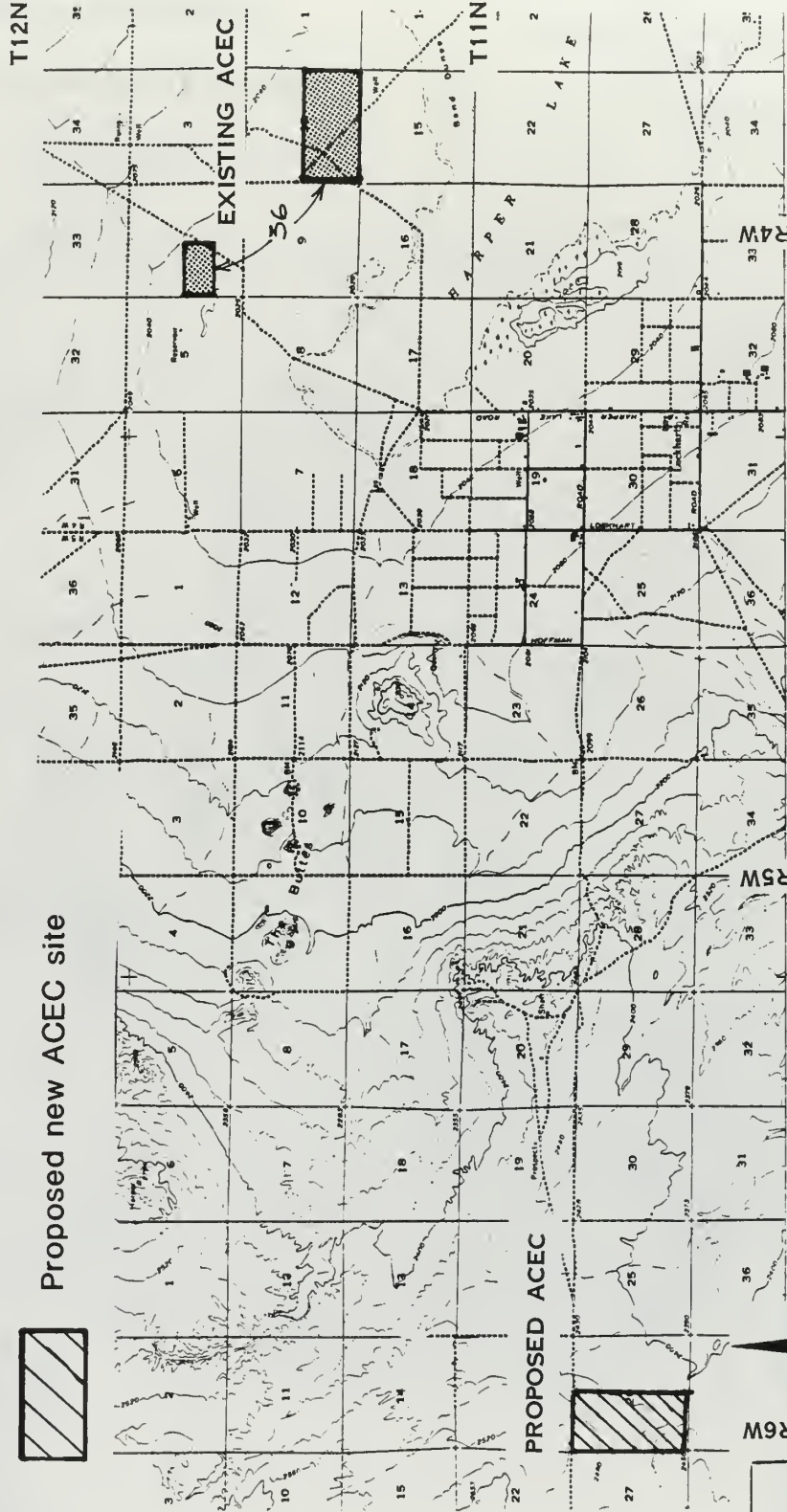
Amendment 16 (Boron)

ERIOPHYLUM
ACEC #36

Existing ACEC Site



Proposed new ACEC site



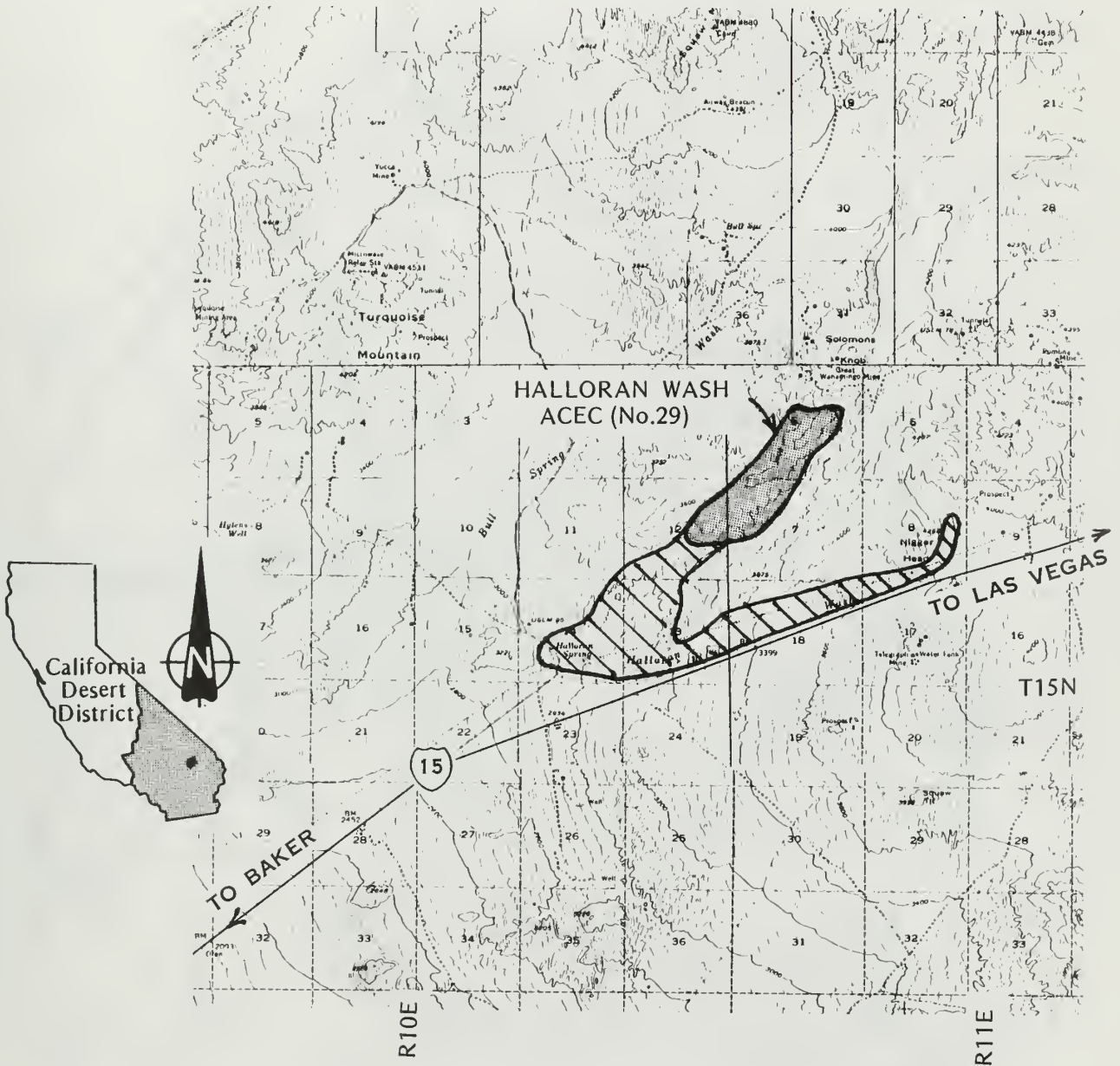
Amendment 17

HALLORAN WASH

ACEC #29



Proposed addition to ACEC



EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

Change northern boundary of EMNSA



Amendment 19

RAND MTN

Alternative A
Change from "M" to "L"

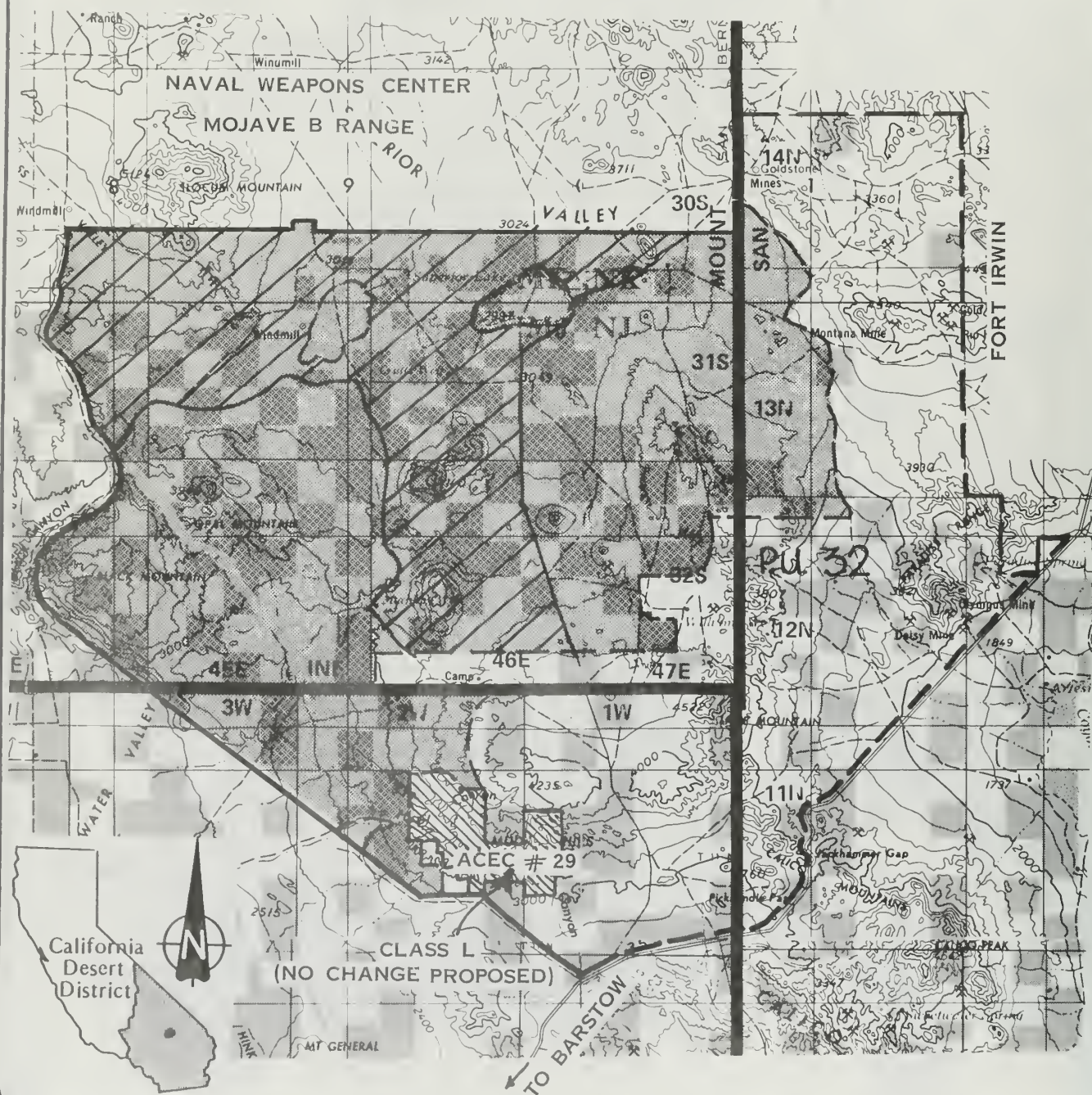
Alternative B
Change from "M" to "I"



Amendment 20

PLANNING UNIT 32

Alternative A
Change from "L" to "M"

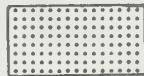


Amendment 21

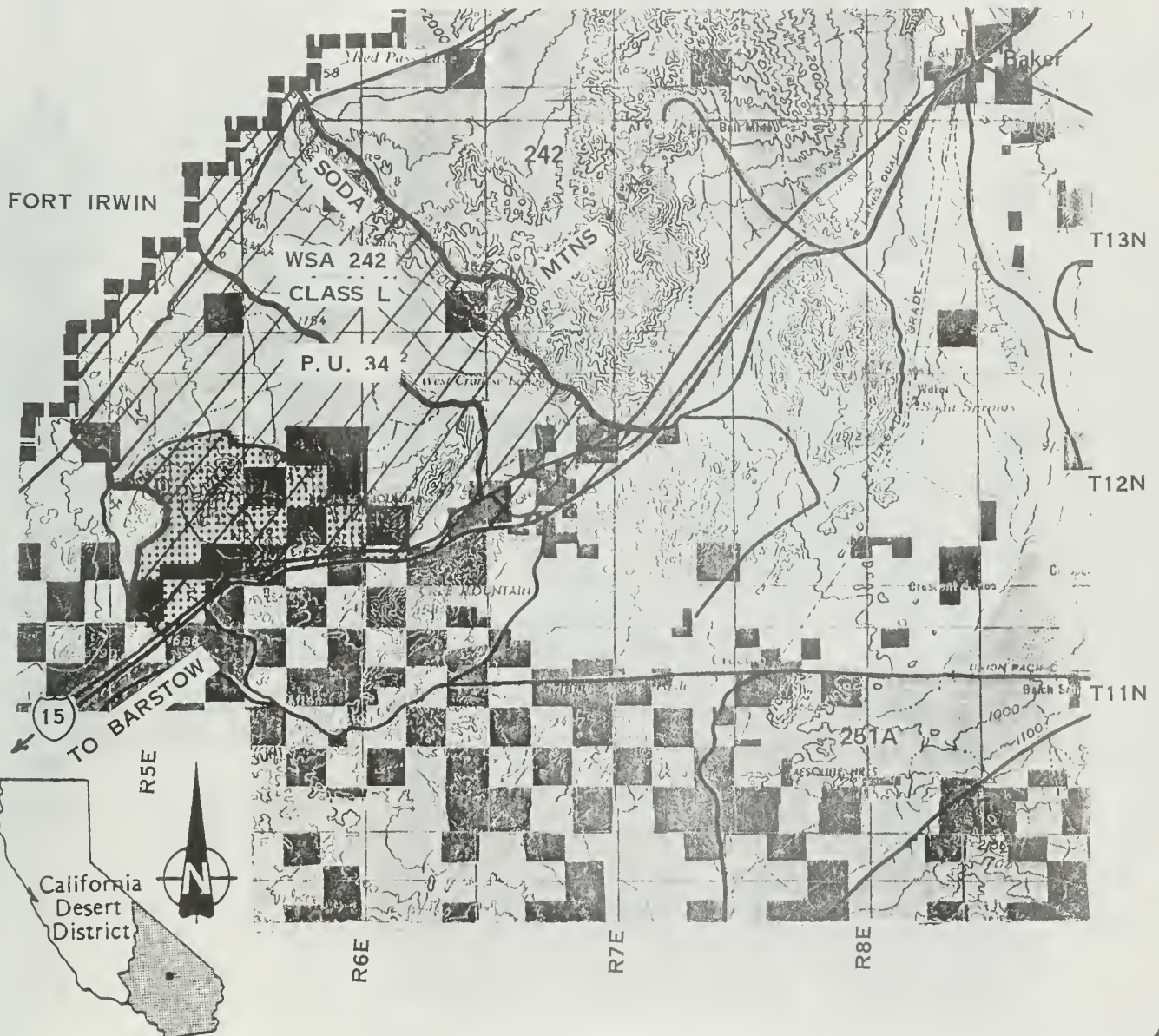
PLANNING UNIT 34



Alternative A
Change from "L" to "M"



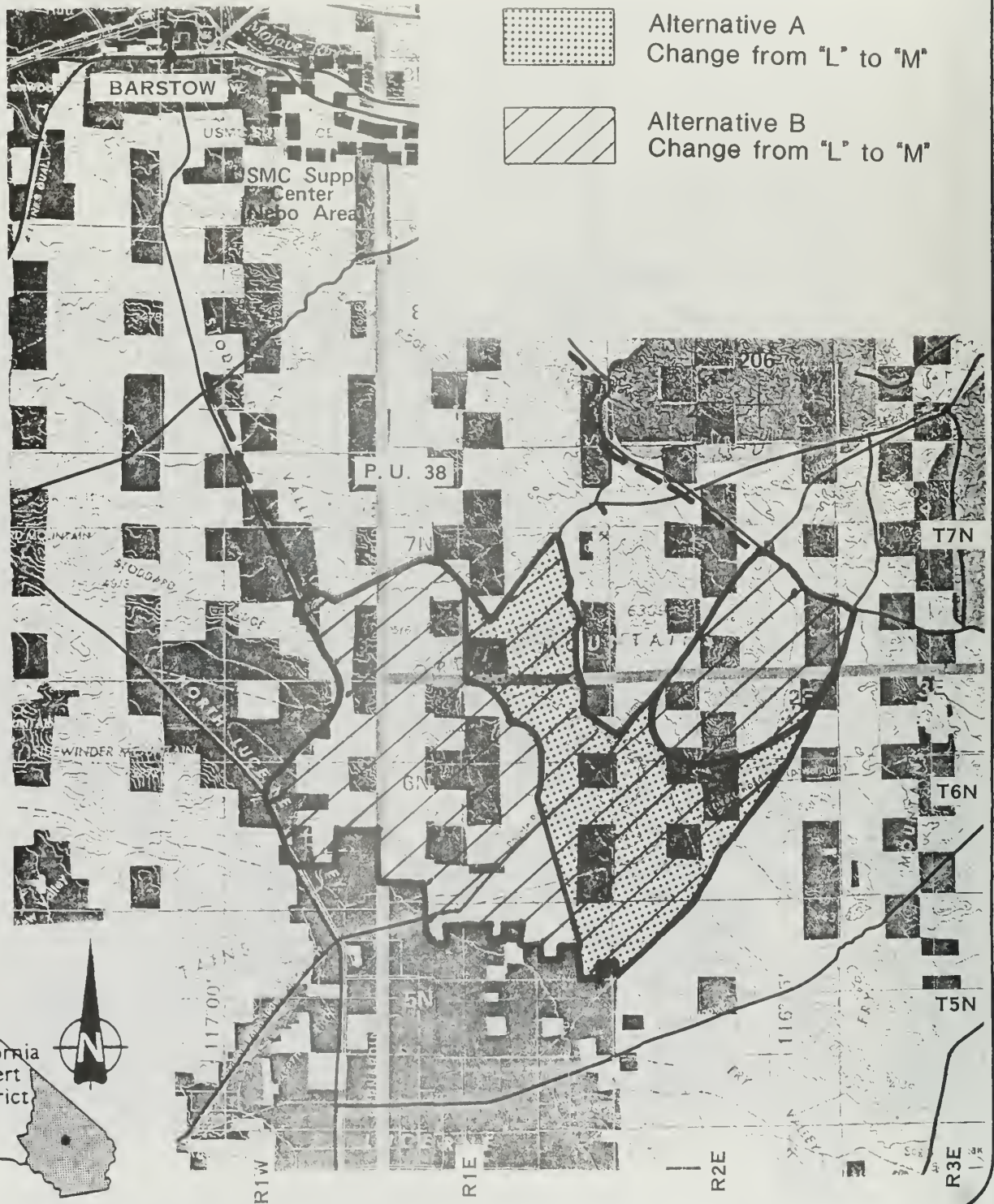
Alternative B
Change from "L" to "M"



Amendment 22

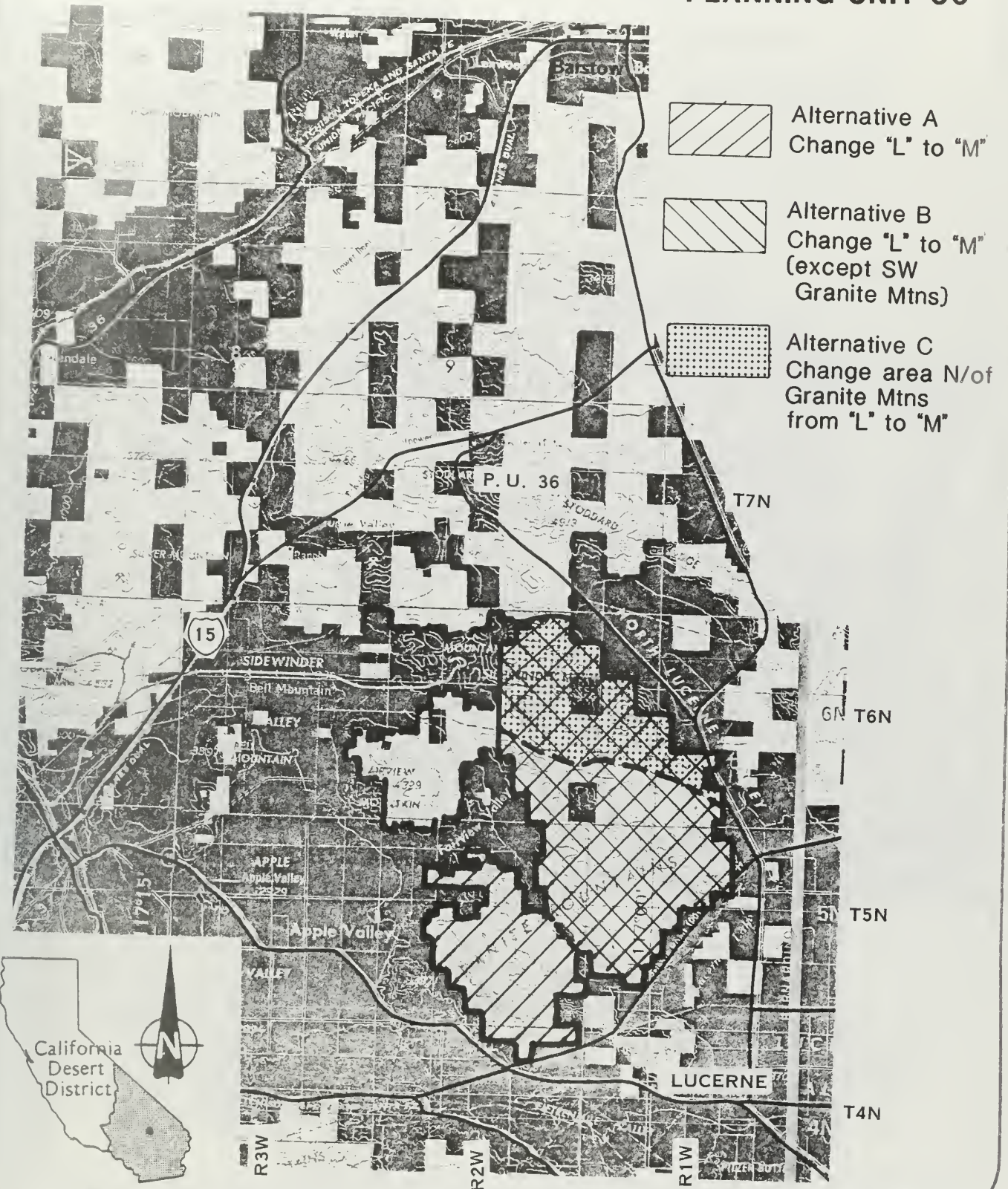
PLANNING UNIT 38

STODDARD EAST



Amendment 23

PLANNING UNIT 36



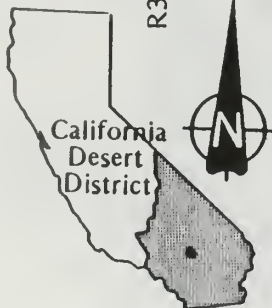
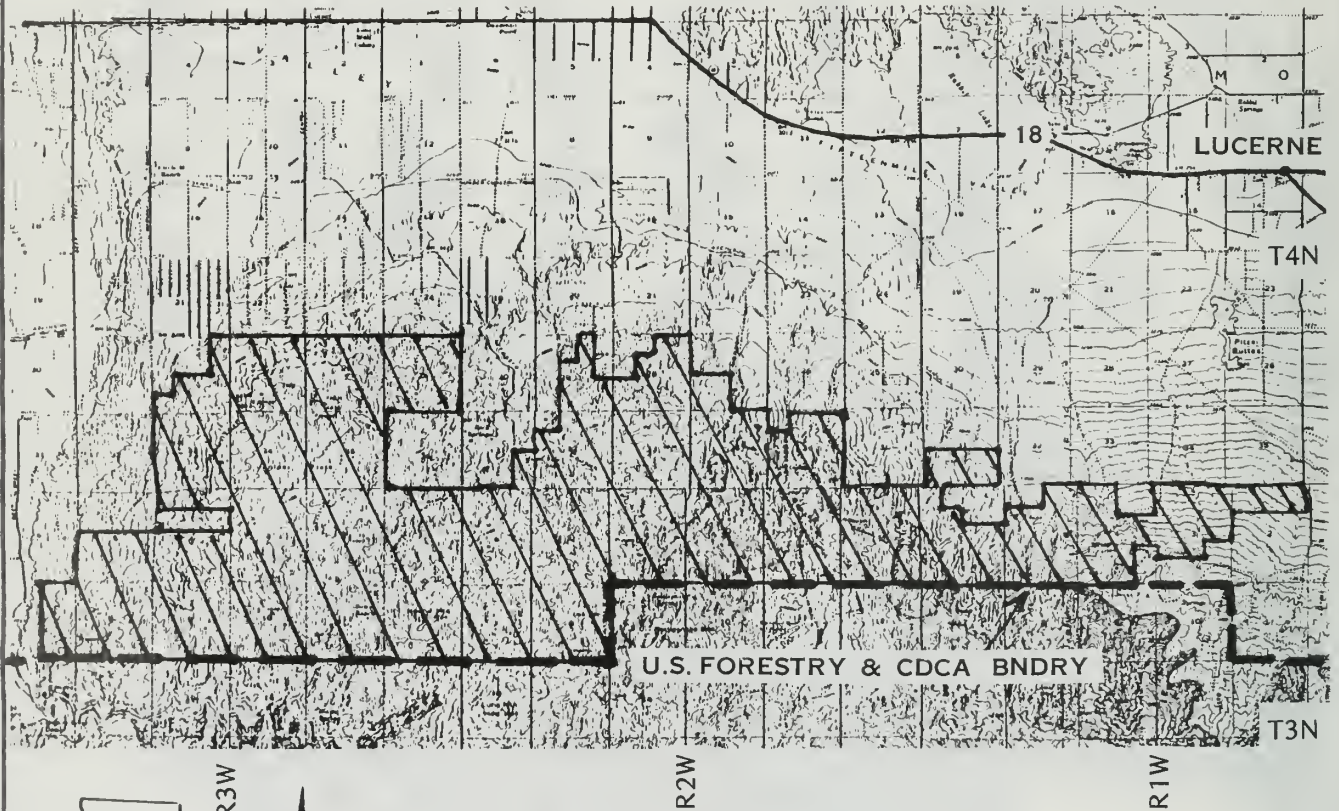
Amendment 24

ROUND MTN/GRAPEVINE CYN

PLANNING UNIT 37

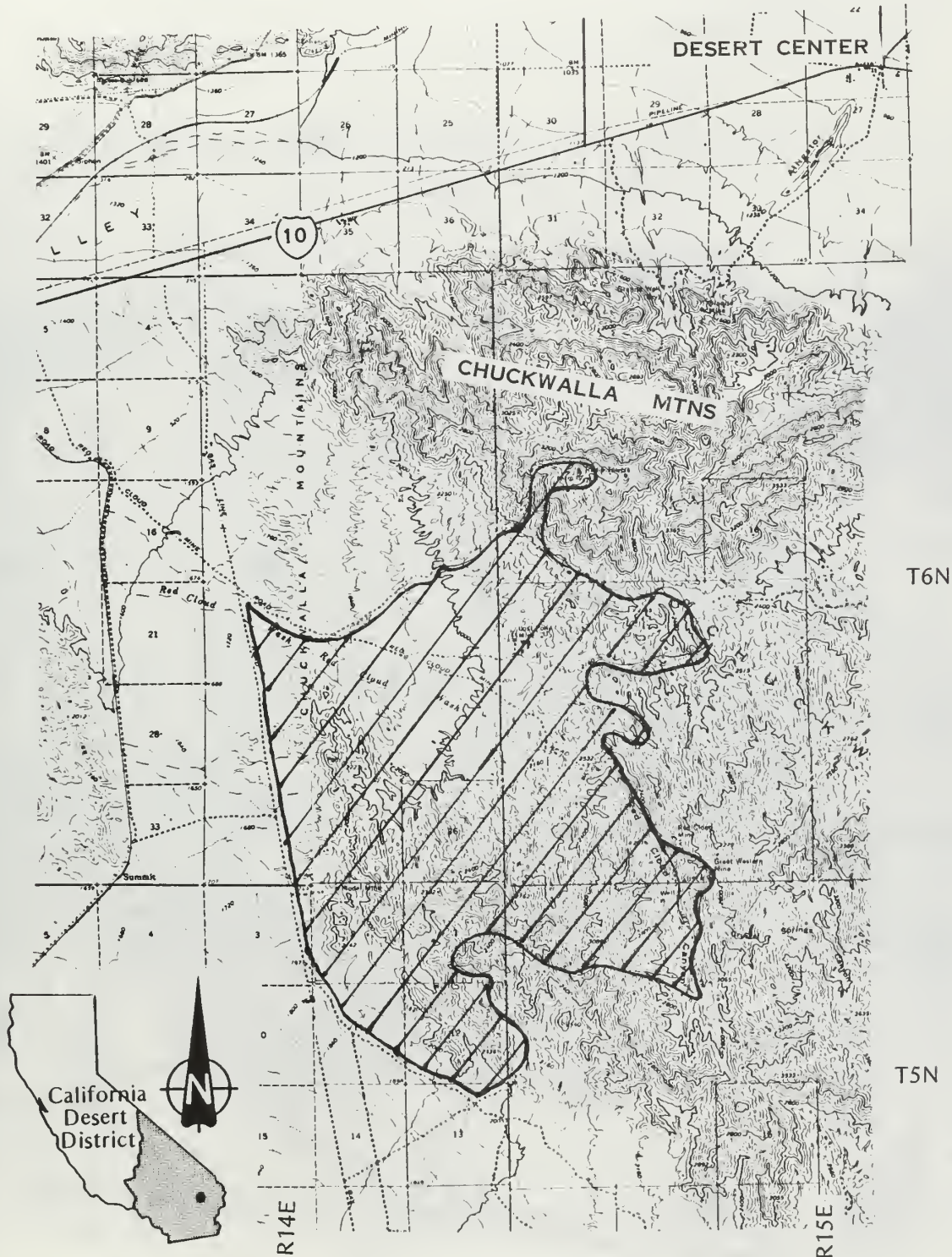


Change from "L" to "M"



Amendment 25 RED CLOUD MINE AREA

Change from "L" to "M"

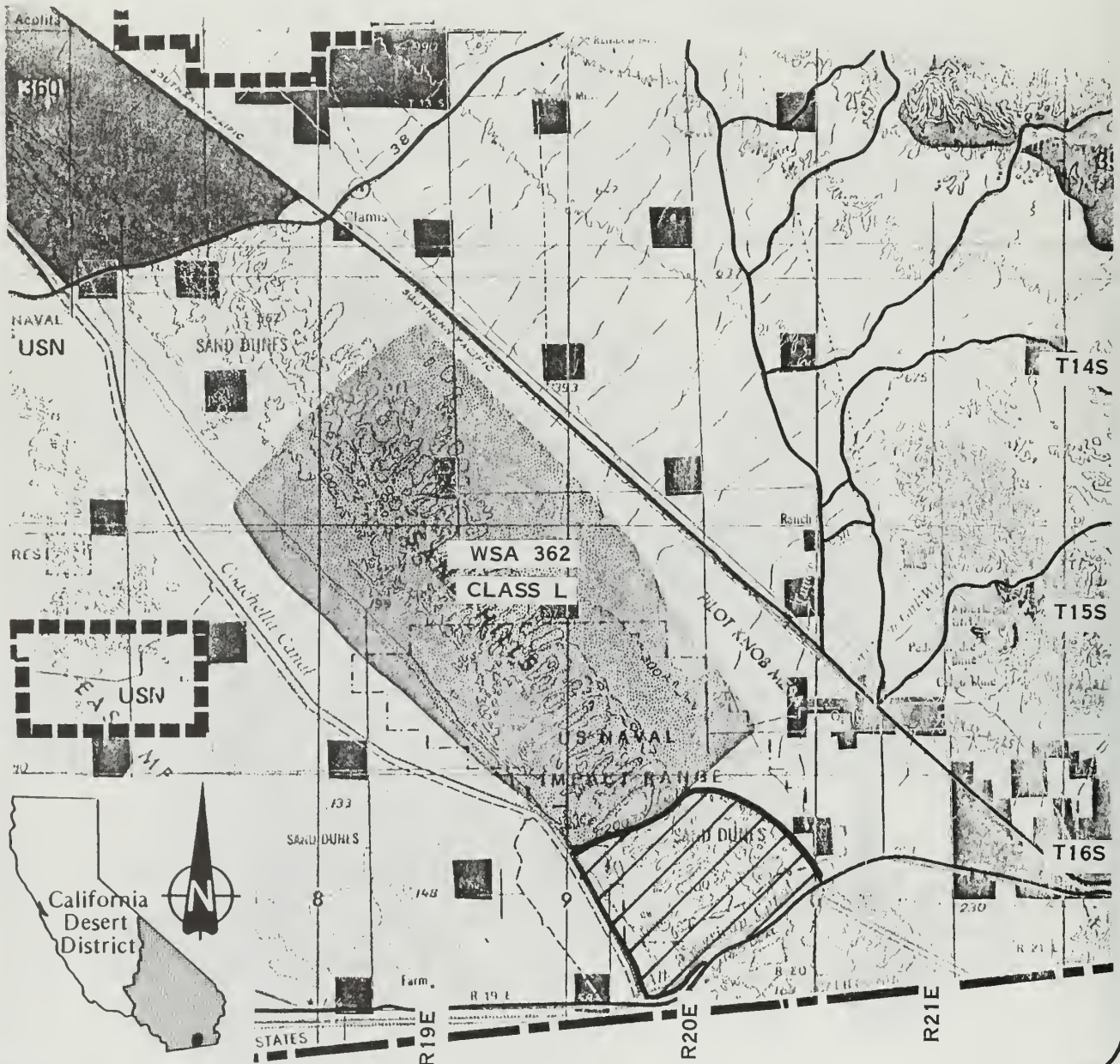


Amendment 26

GORDON'S WELL (Imperial Dunes)



Change from "L" to "I"



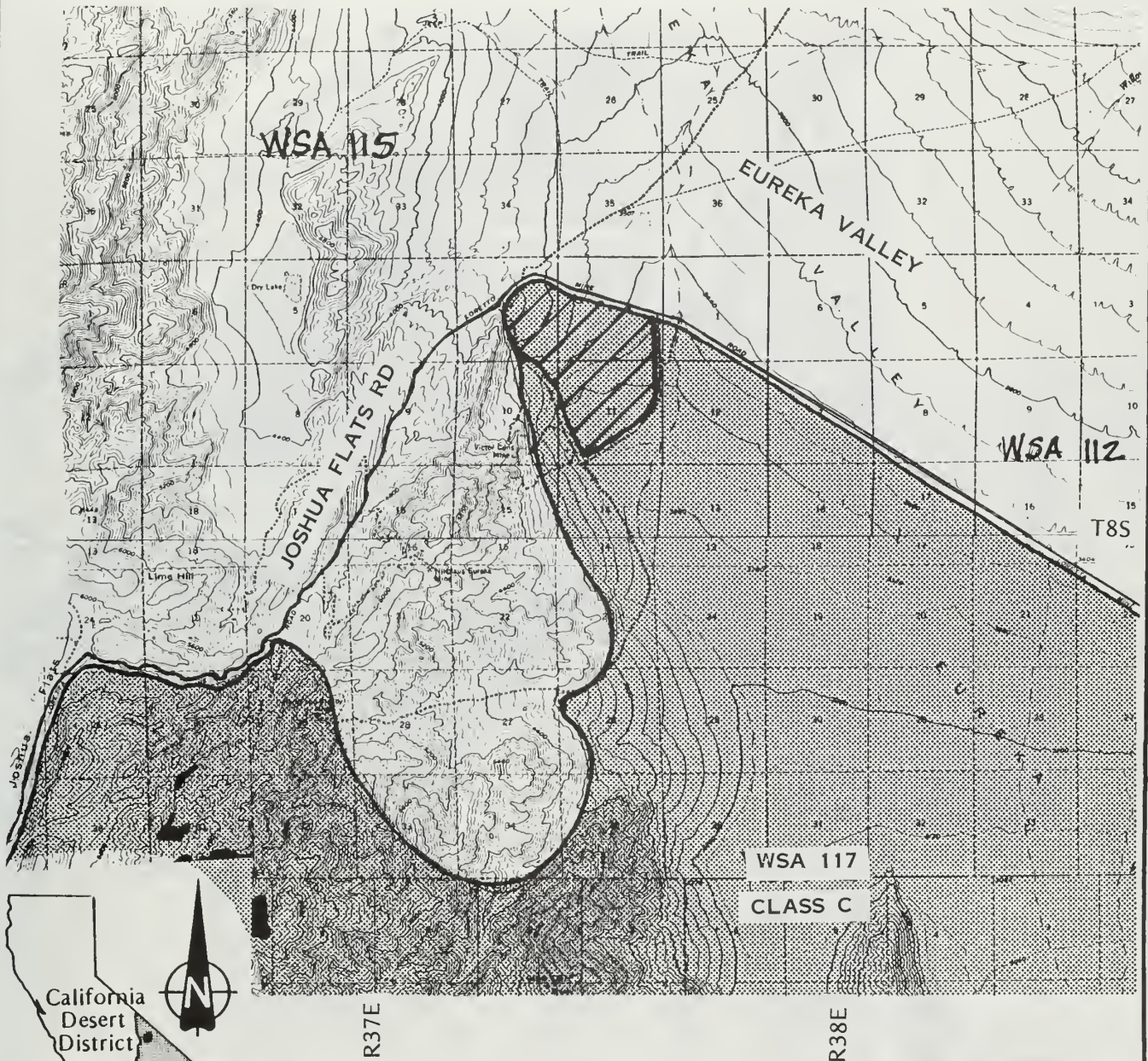
Amendment 27

EUREKA VALLEY

(WSA 117)



Change from "C" to "M"



Amendment 28

SHAW MINE
(WSA 150)

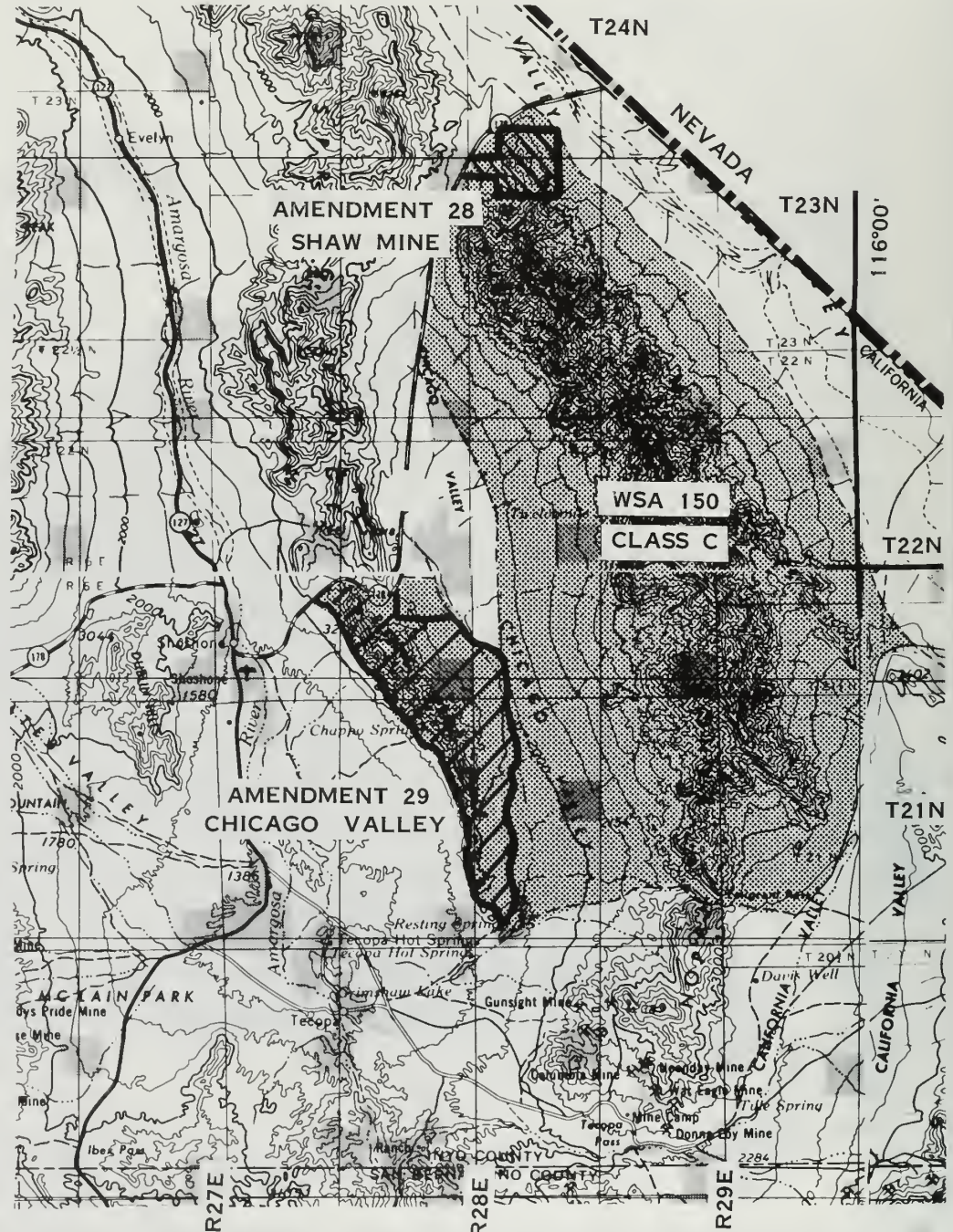
Amendment 29 CHICAGO VALLEY



Change from "C" to "M"



Change from "C" to "L"



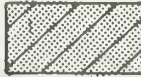
Amendment 30

WOODS MTN

WSA 271



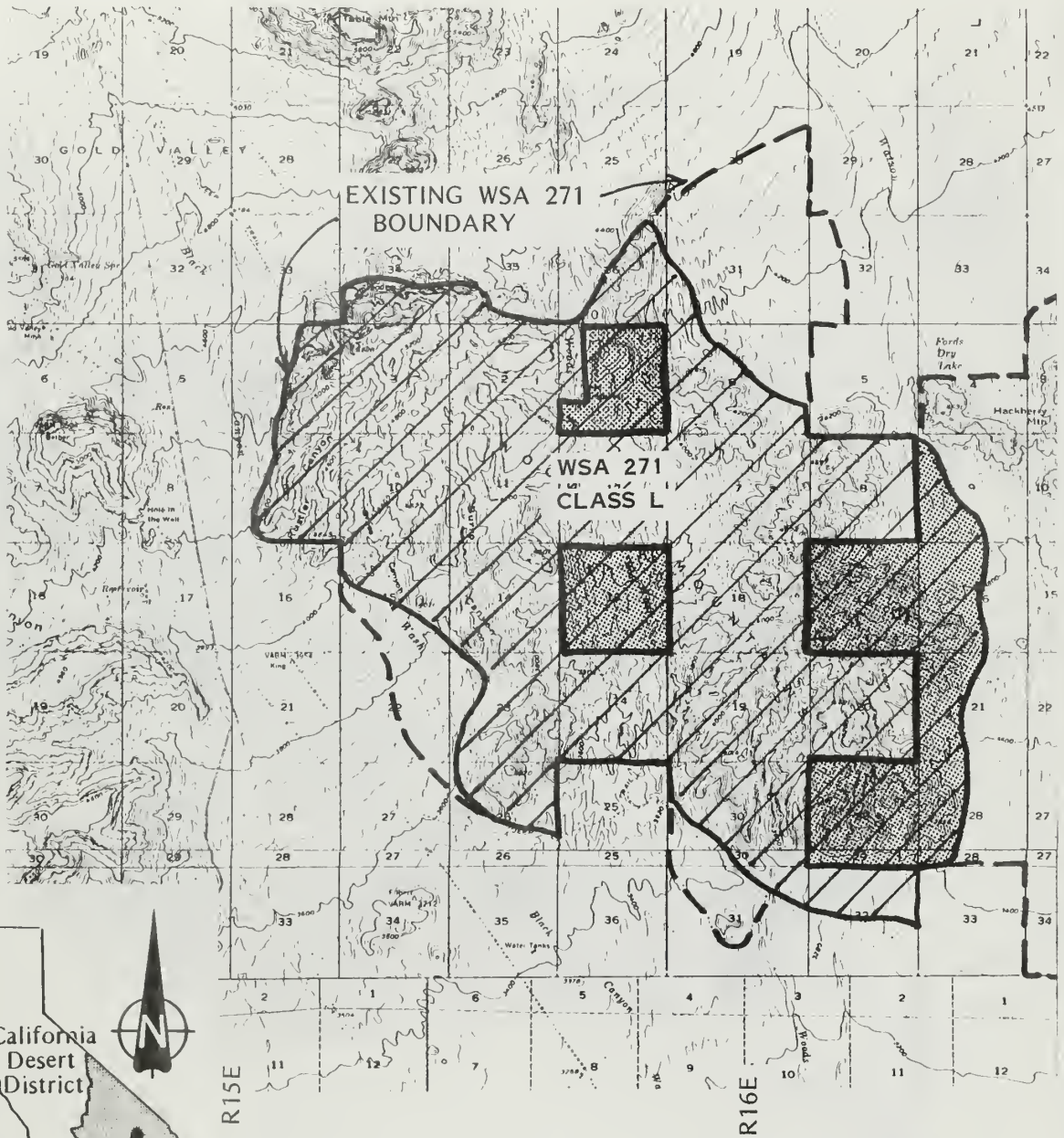
Change from "L" to "C"



Proposed land acquisition

T12N

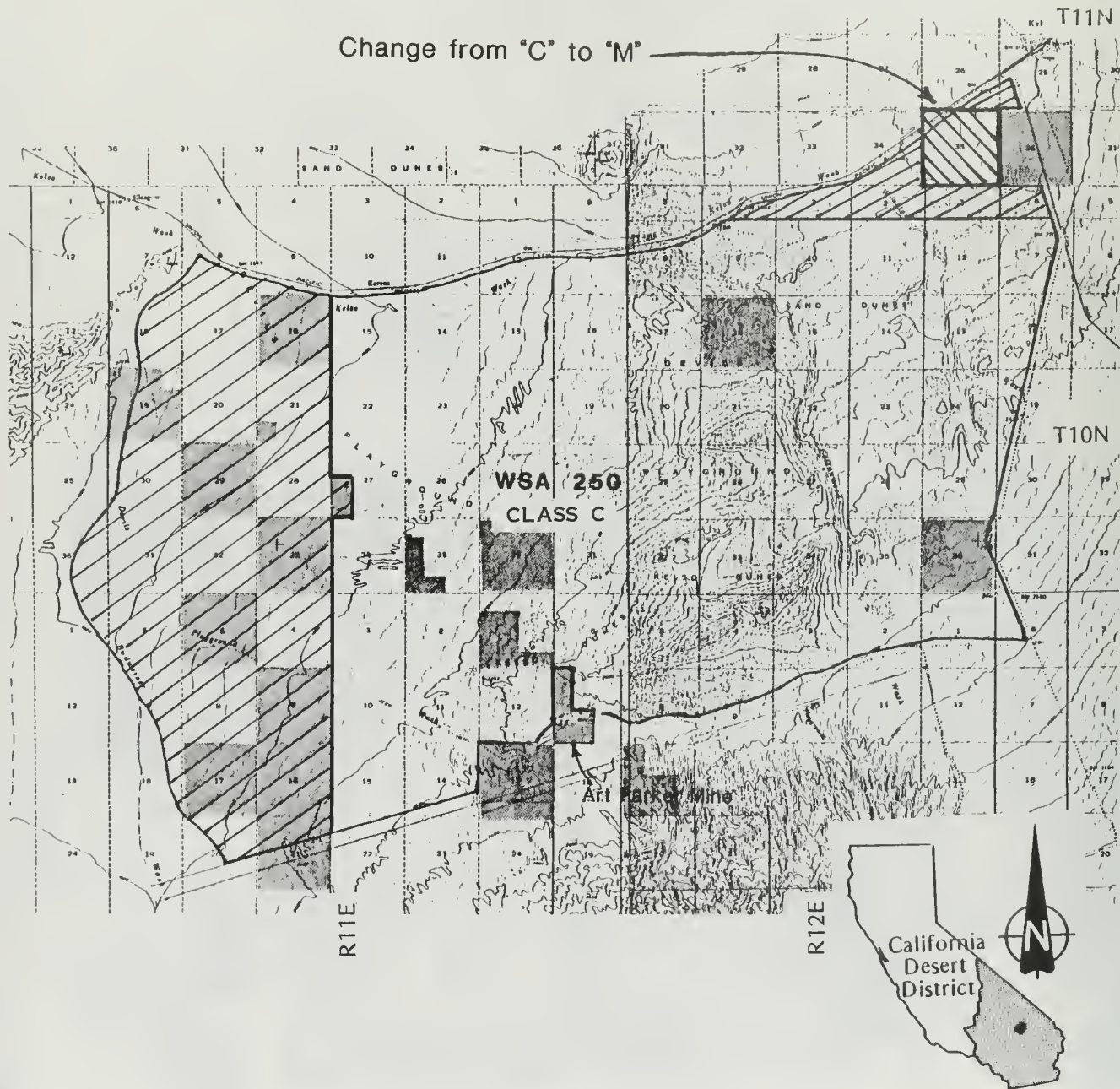
T11N



Amendment 31

SEC. 35 (Kelso Dunes)

Change from "C" to "M"



Amendment 32

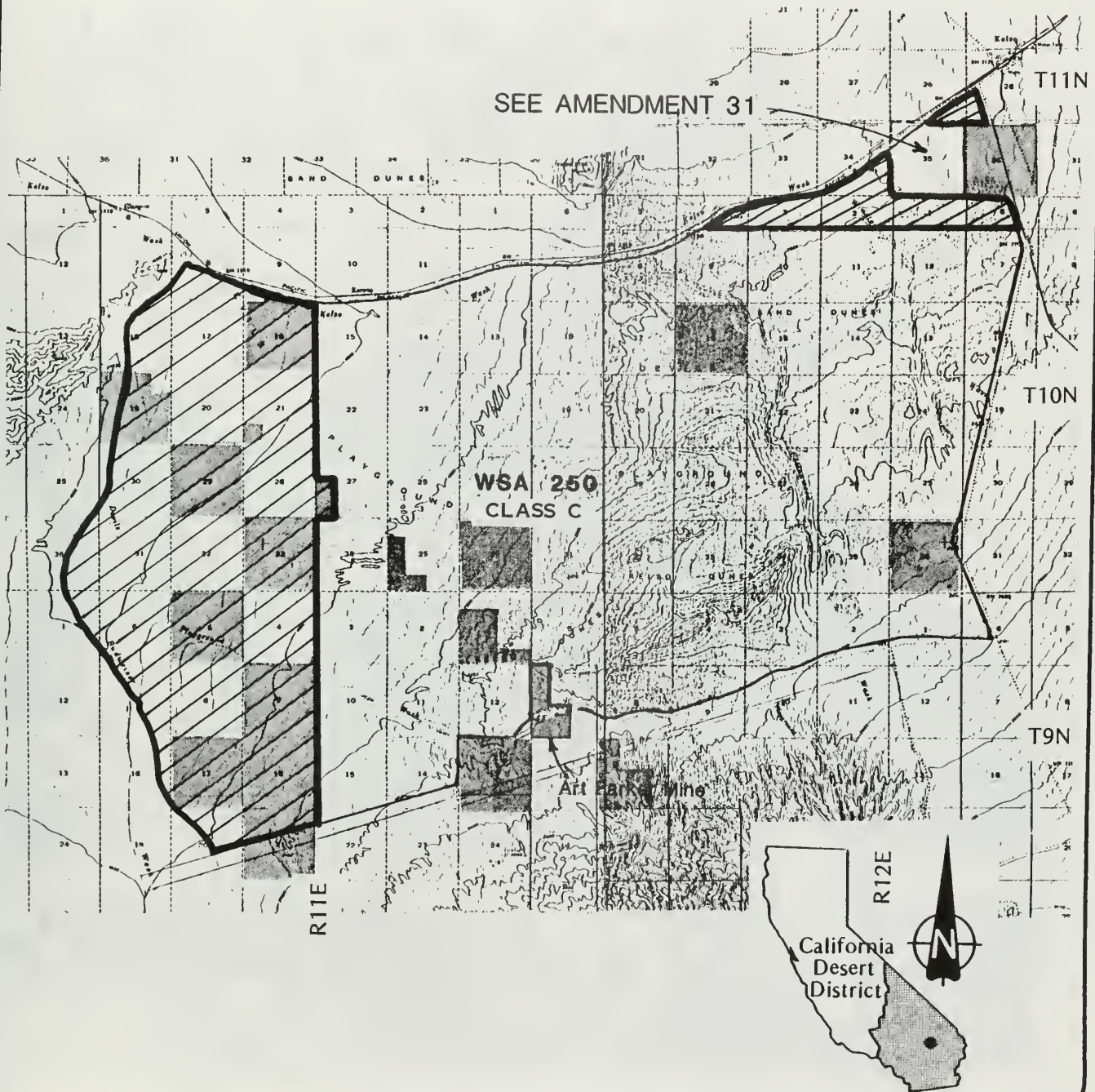
KELSO DUNES

(WSA 250)



Change from "C" to "L"

SEE AMENDMENT 31



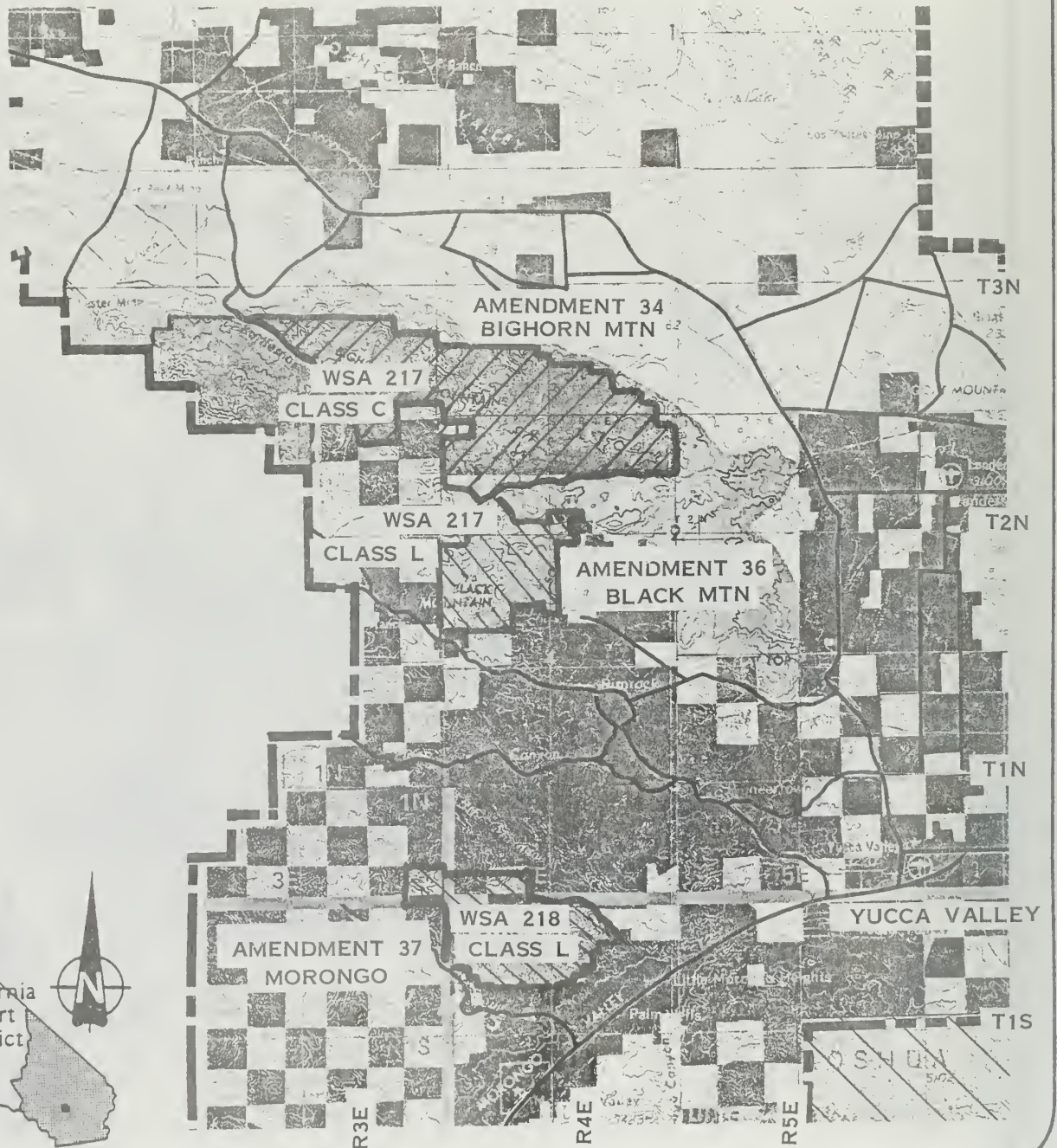
Amendment 34, 36, 37



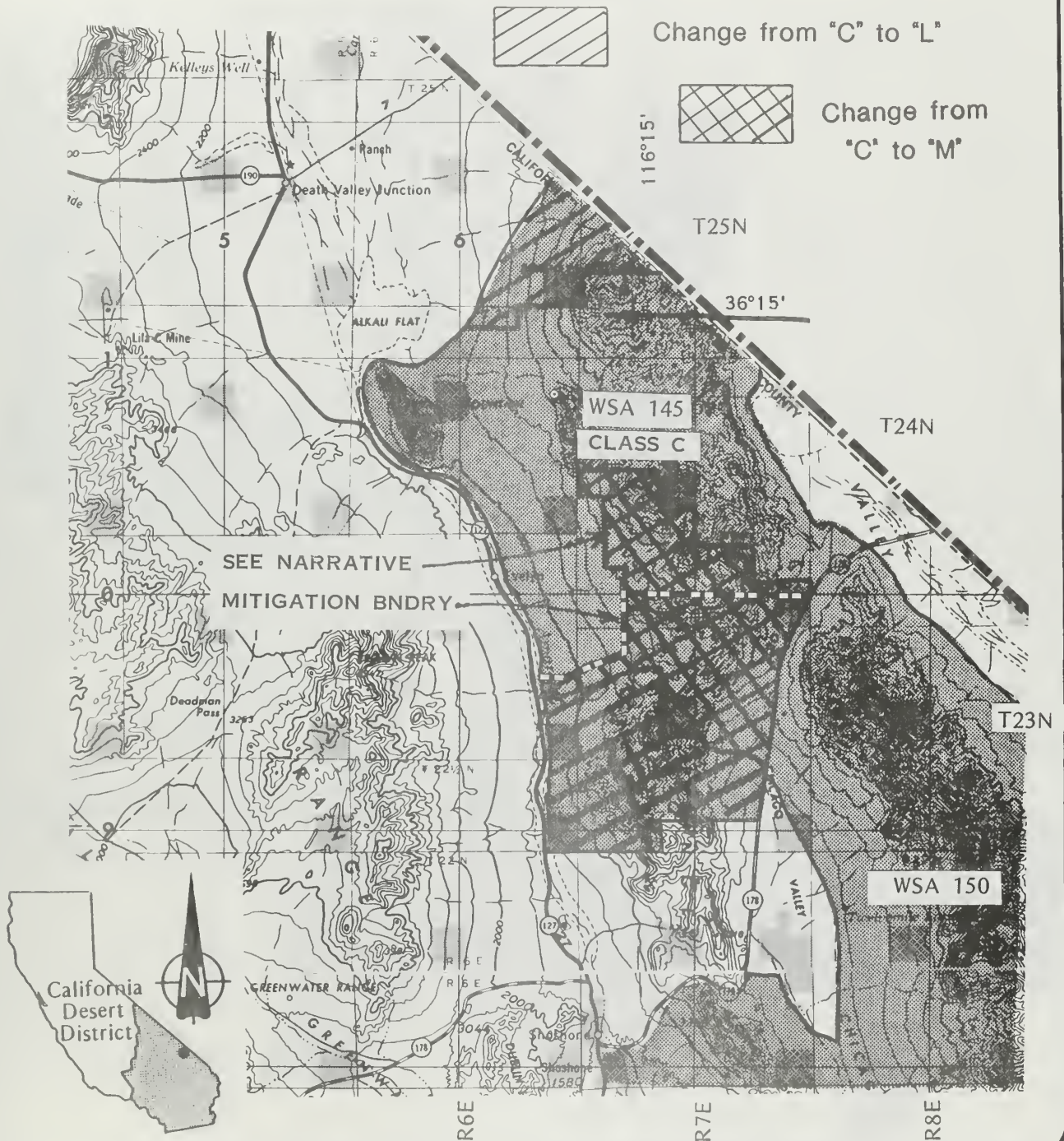
Change from "C" to "L"



Change from "L" to "C"



Amendment 39
WSA 145
Resting Springs Range

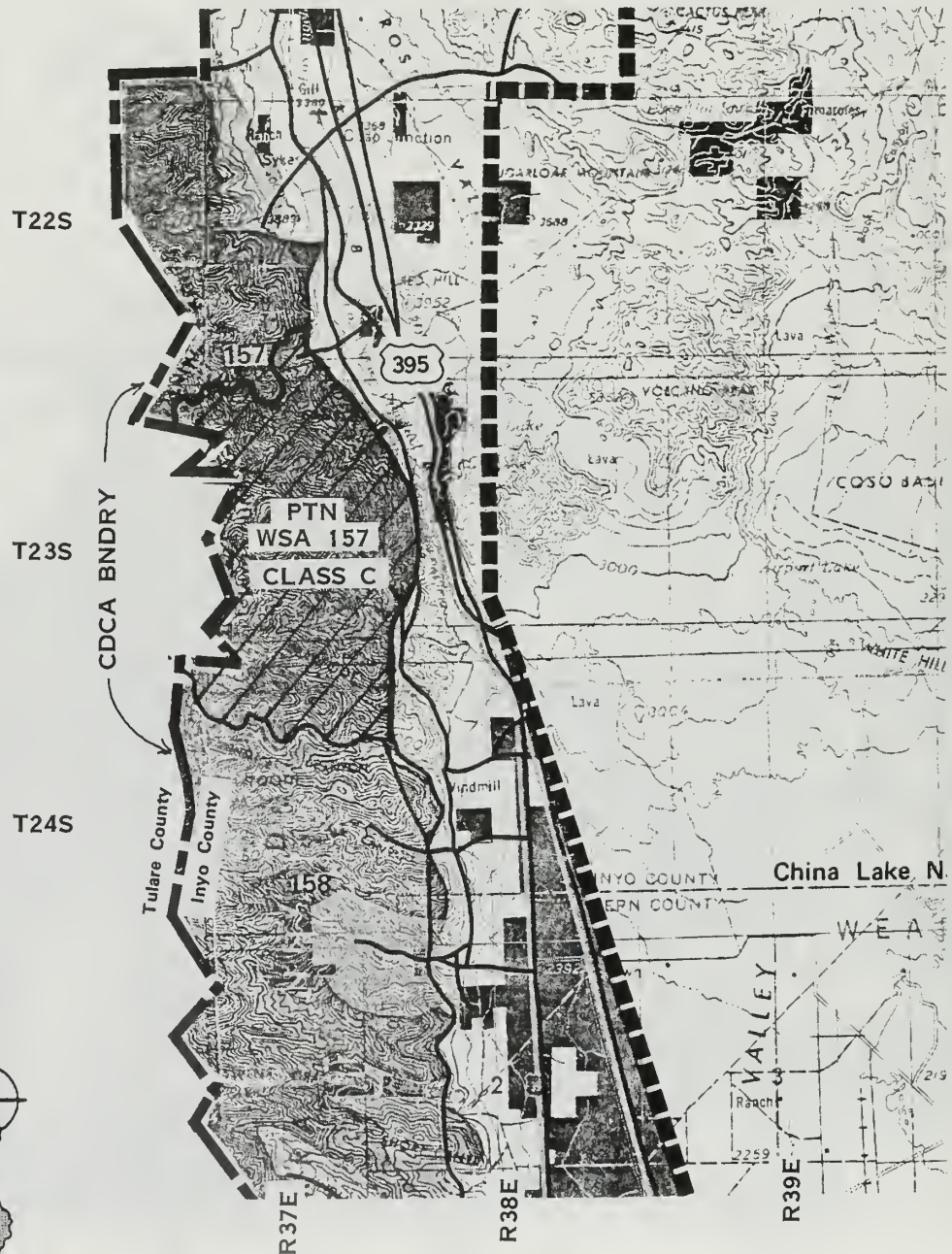


Amendment 41

WSA 157



Change from "C" to "L"



WSA 123
Hunter Mtn

[illegible]

Amendment 43,44,45,46 SAWTOOTH WSA



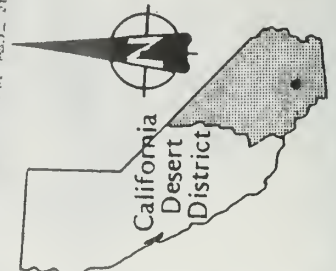
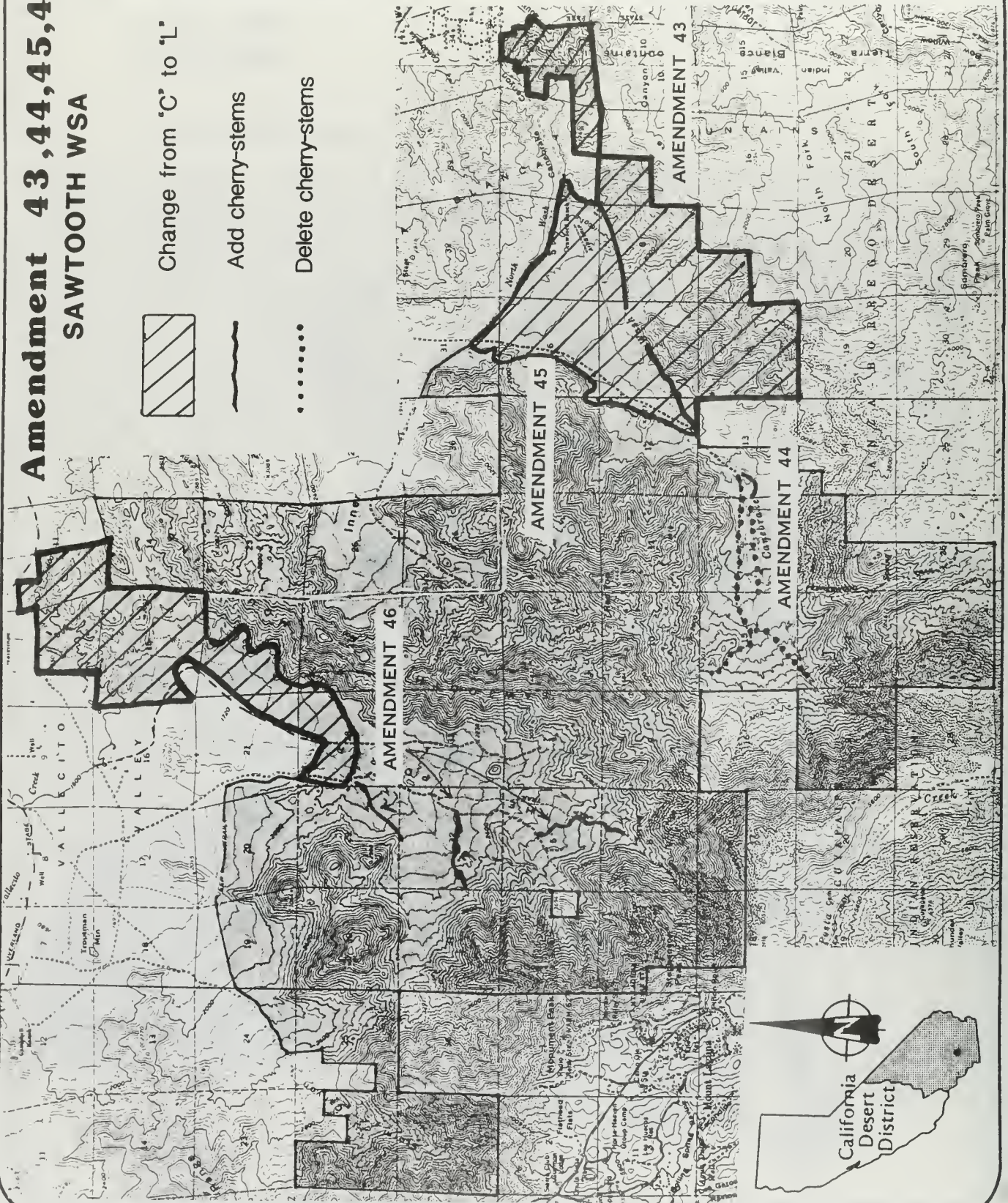
Change from "C" to "L"



Add cherry-stems



Delete cherry-stems

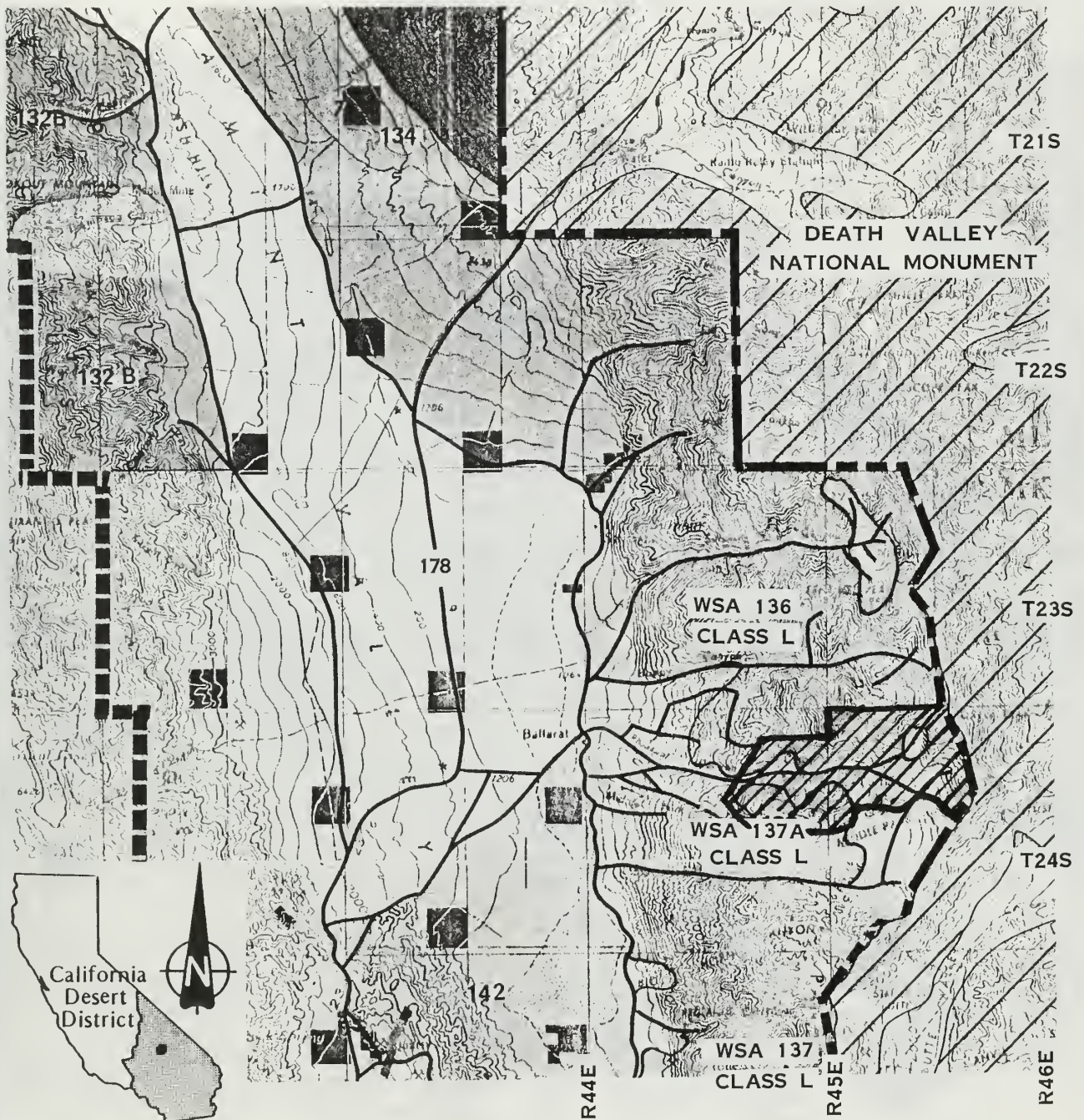


Amendment 47

PLEASANT CANYON



Change from "L" to "M"

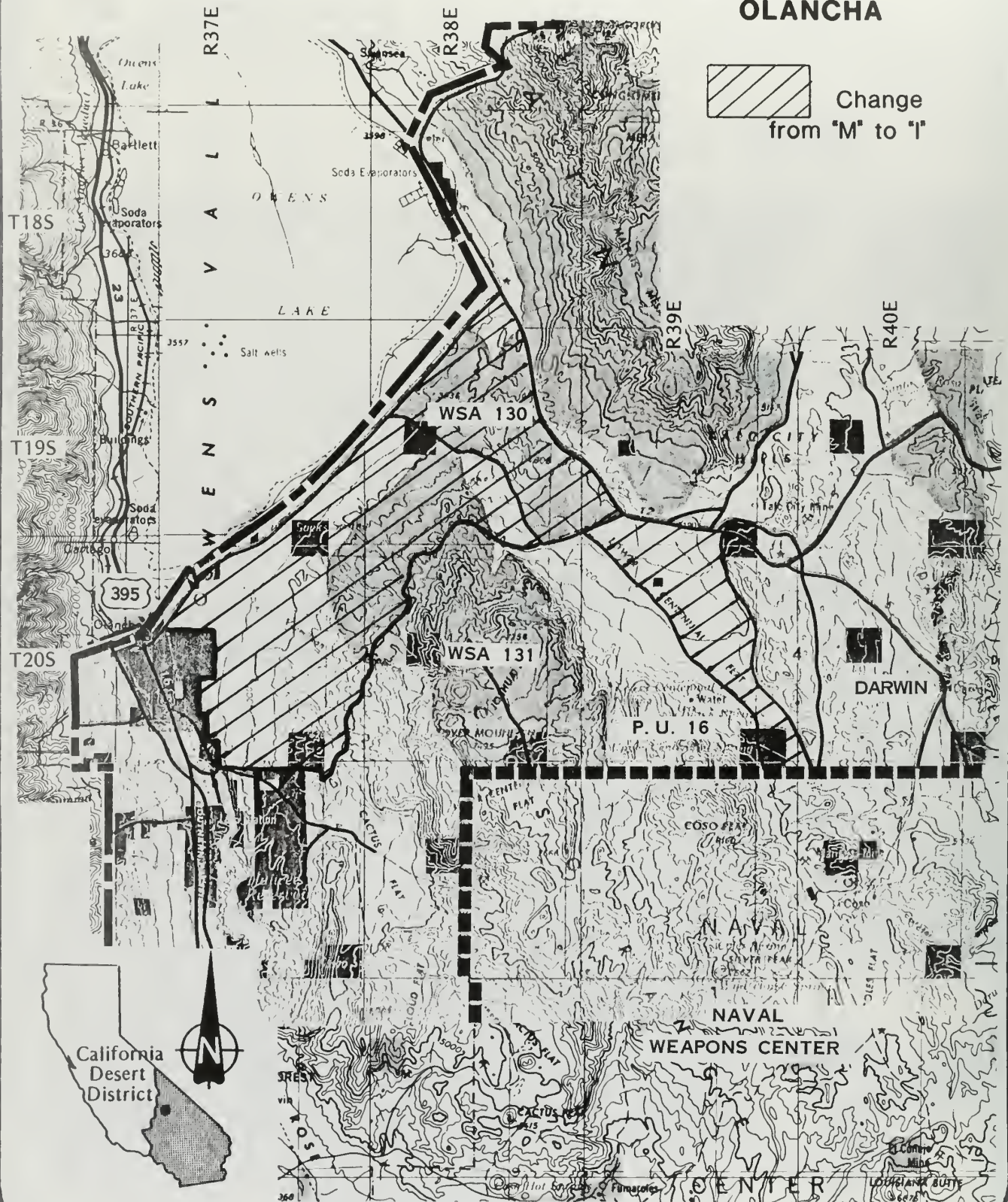


Mt. Diablo Base Line and Meridian

Amendment 48 OLANCHA



Change
from 'M' to 'I'



California
Desert
District



360

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Center

LOUISIANA STATE

Amendment 50

ARROYO SALADA OPEN AREA



Proposed expansion
Change from 'M' to 'I'



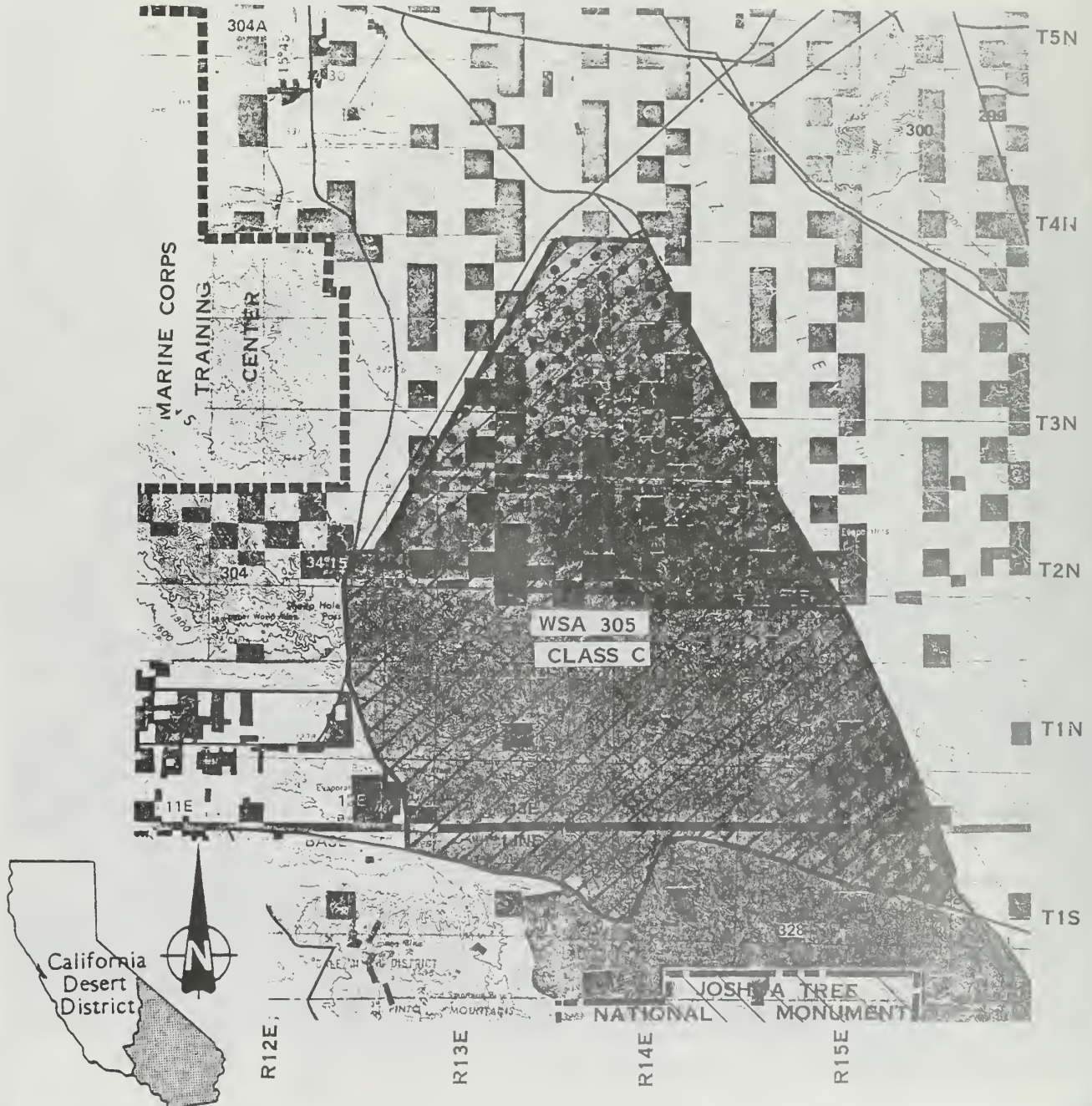
Amendment 51 SHEEPHOLE MTNS (WSA 305)



Alternative A
Change from "C" to "L"



Alternative B
Change from "C" to "L"



Amendment 52 GREENWATER VALLEY (WSA 148)



Alternative A
Change from "C" to "L"



Alternative B
Change from "C" to "L"

T 22 1/2 N

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL MONUMENT

WSA 148
CLASS C

WSA 148

R3E

T22N

T21N

R4E



APPENDIX B
BARSTOW TO VEGAS MAPS

APPENDIX B

B-V MAPS

LEGEND

On Roads



In Washes



Cross-Country
(Old Courses)



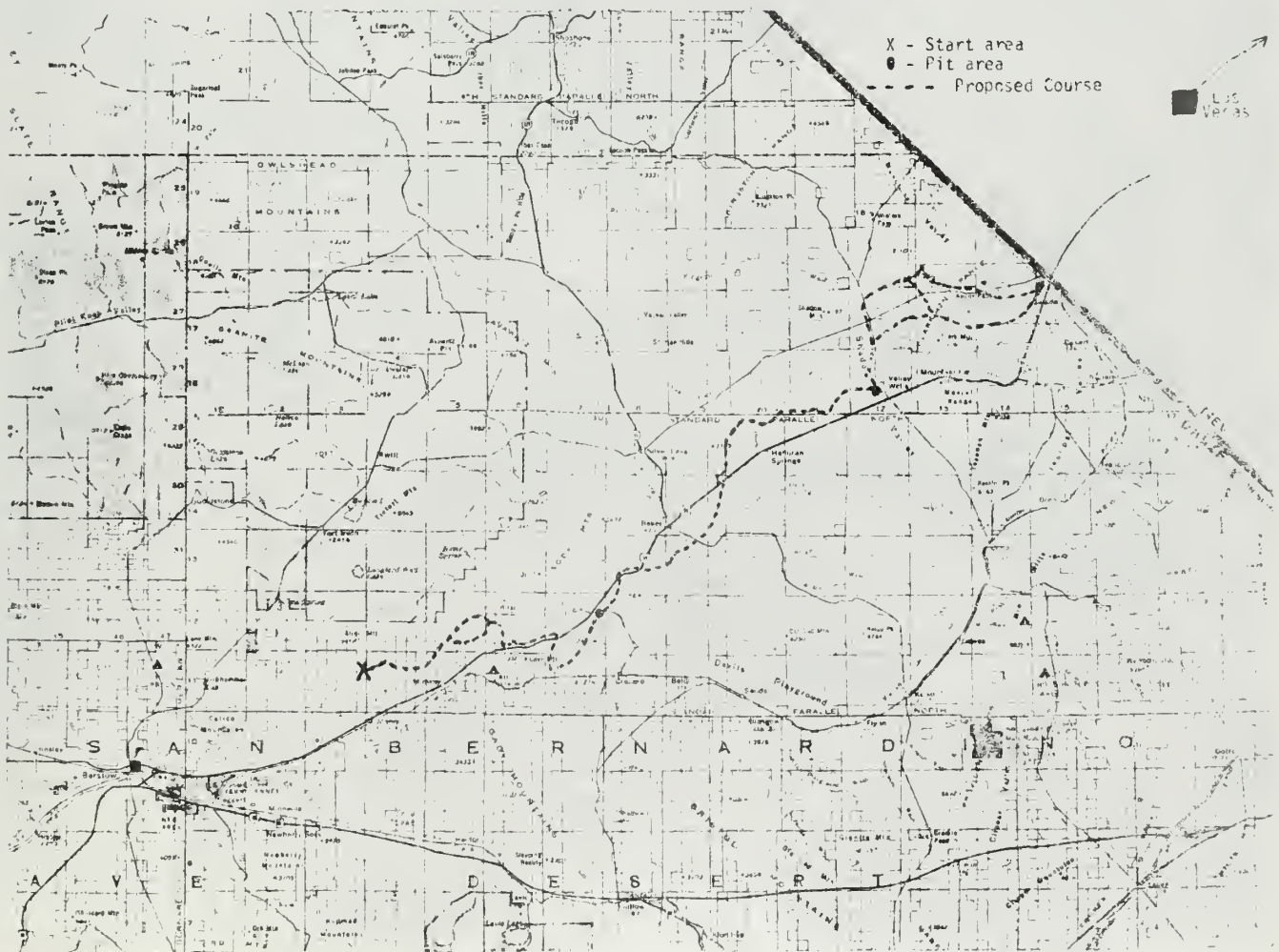
Cross-Country
(New)

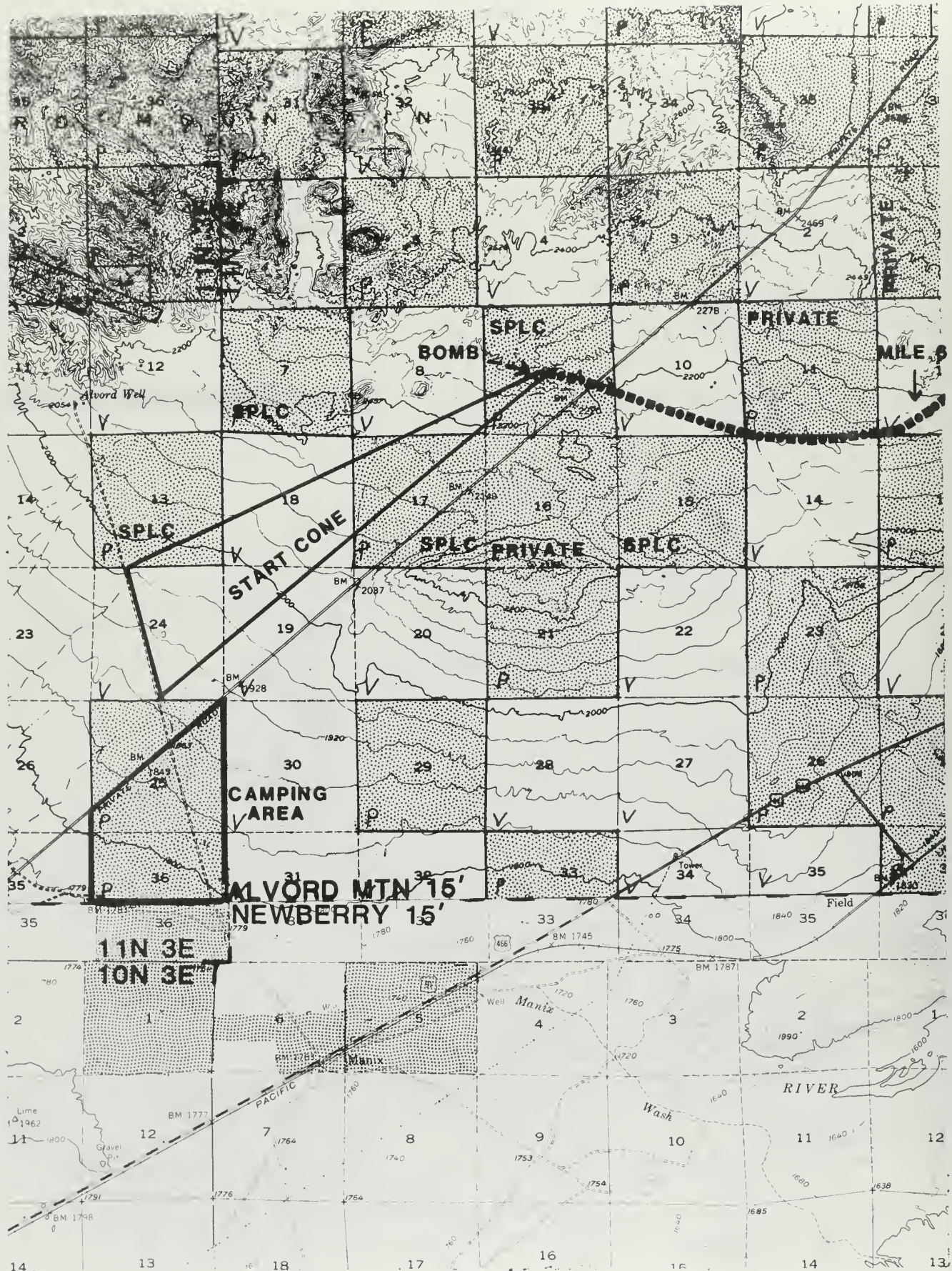


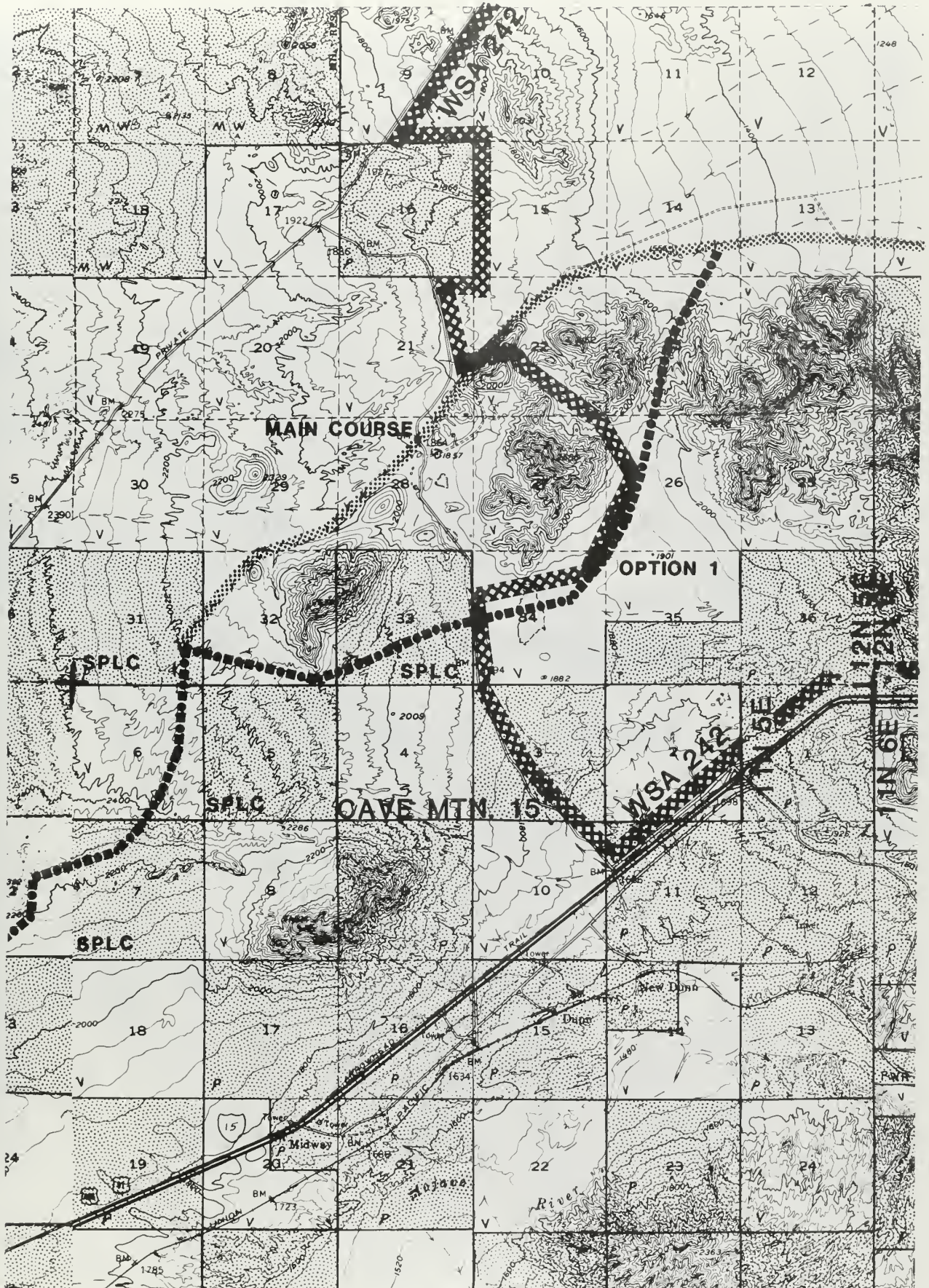
Wilderness Study Area
Boundary

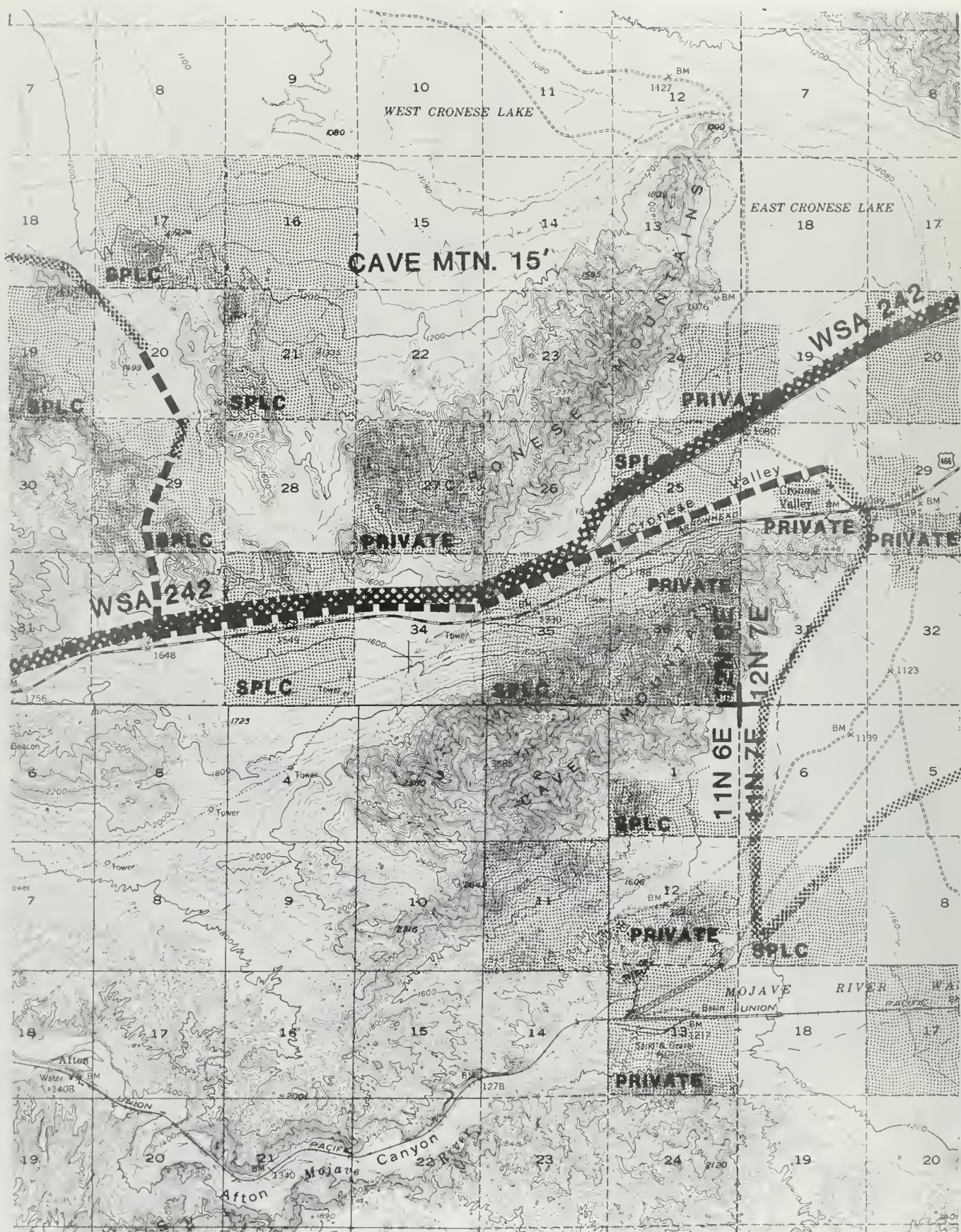


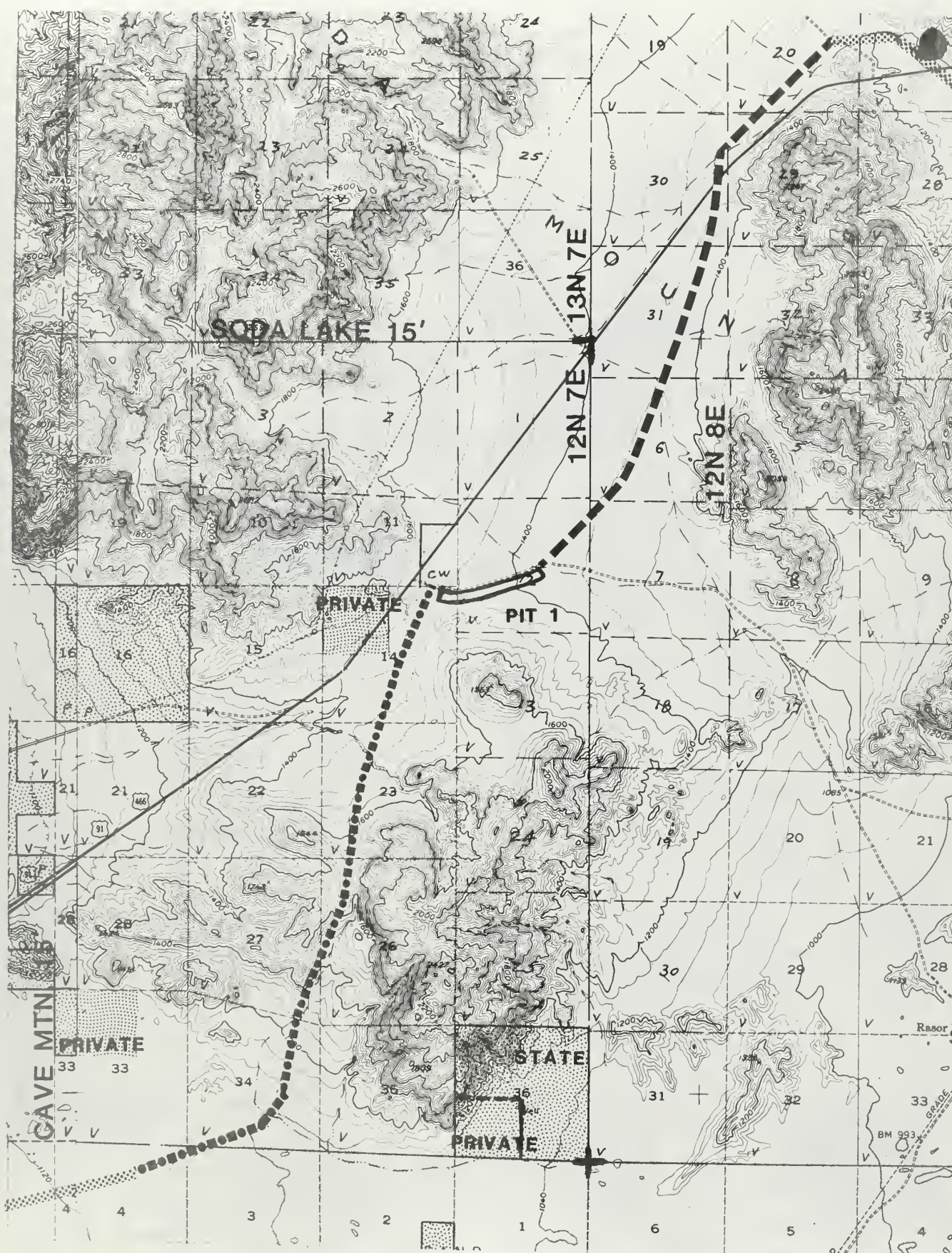
SPLC - Southern Pacific Land Company

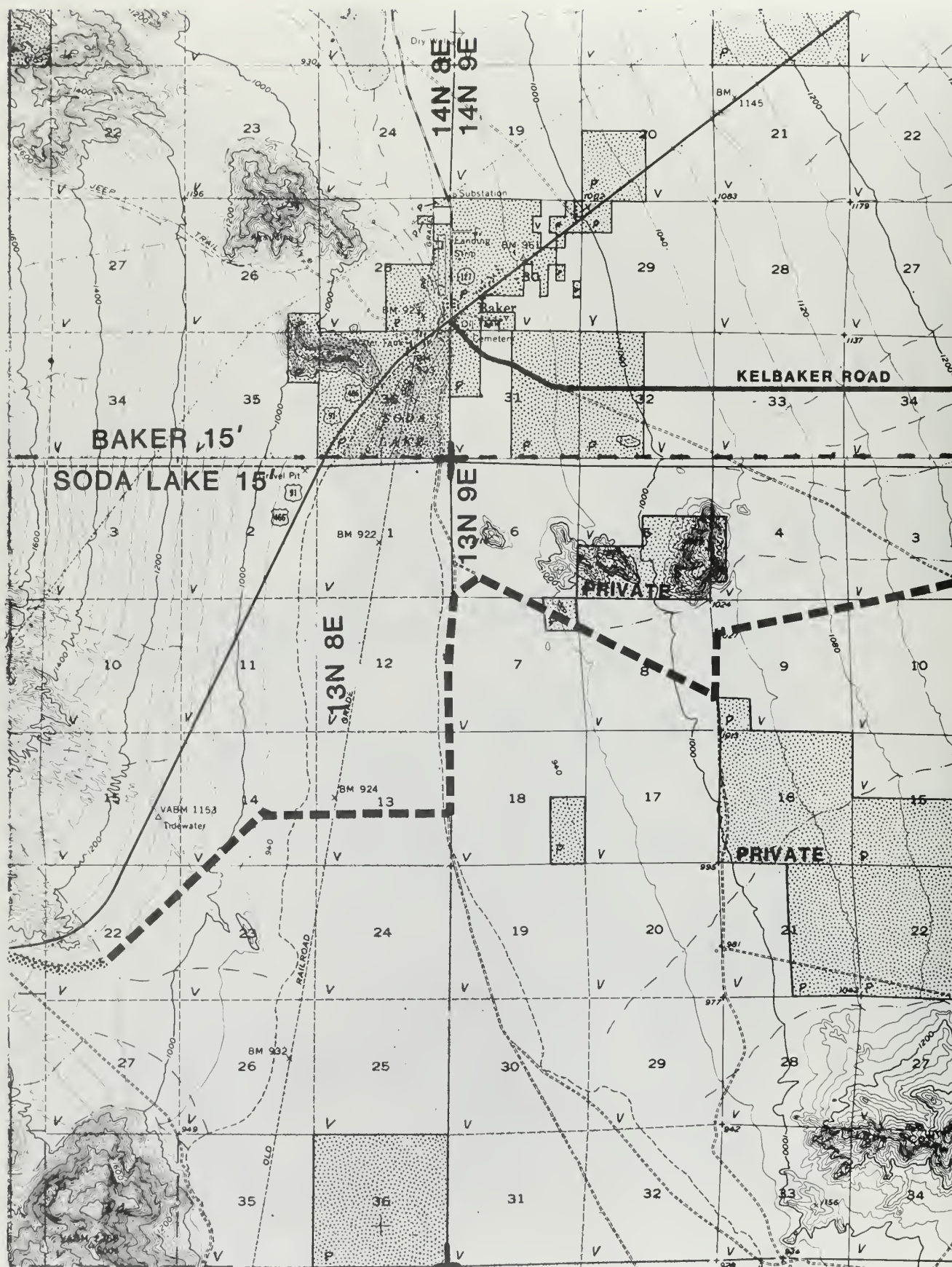


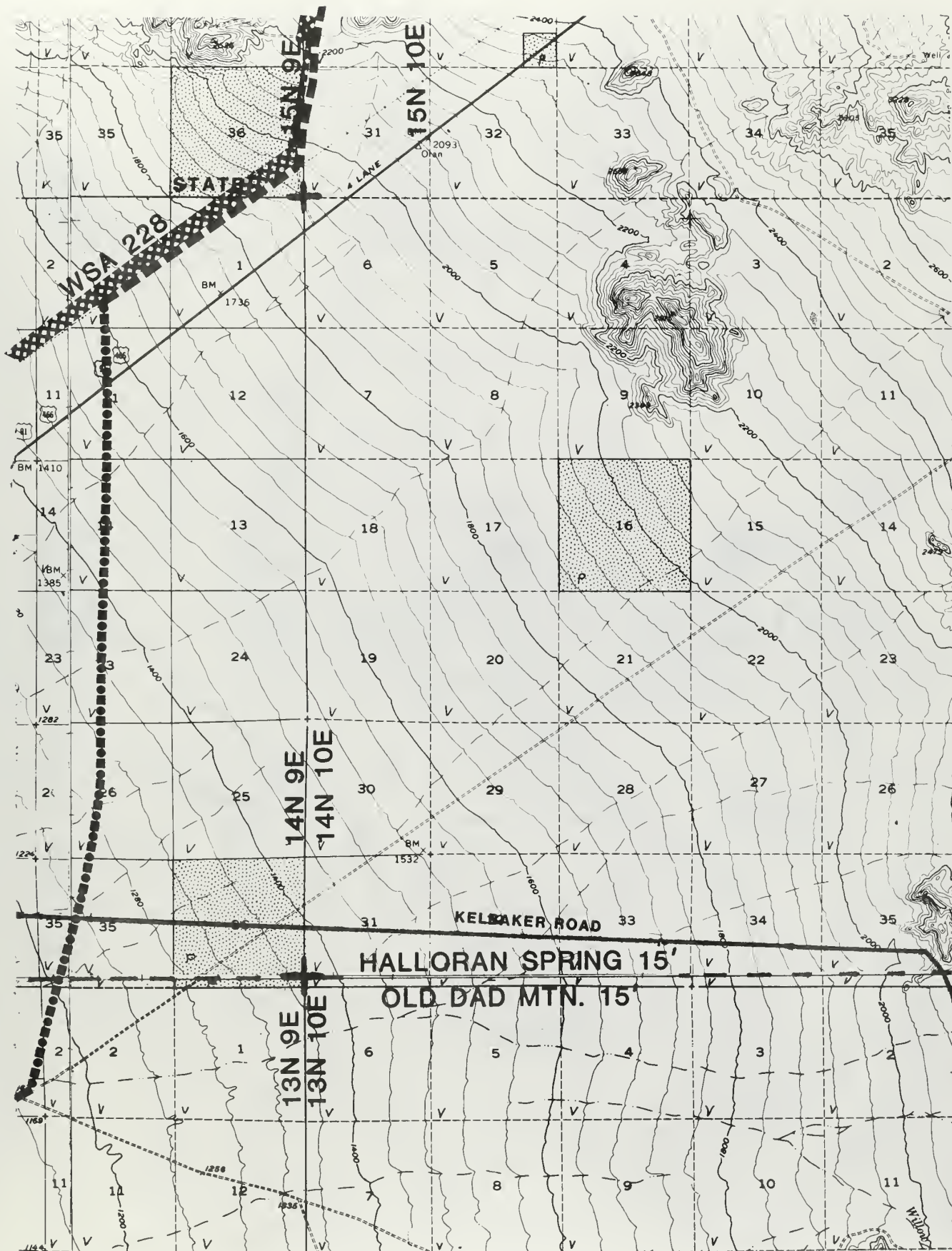


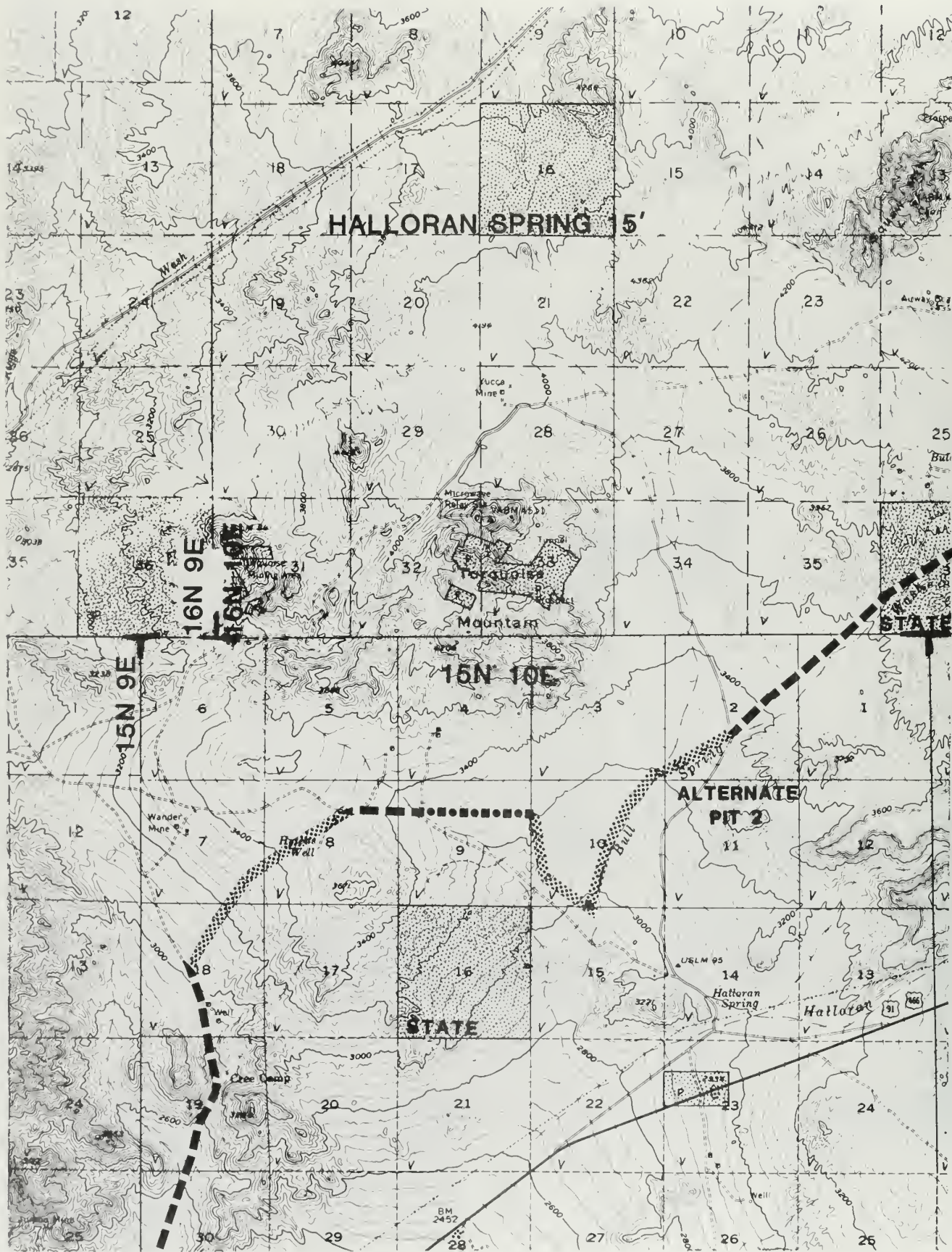


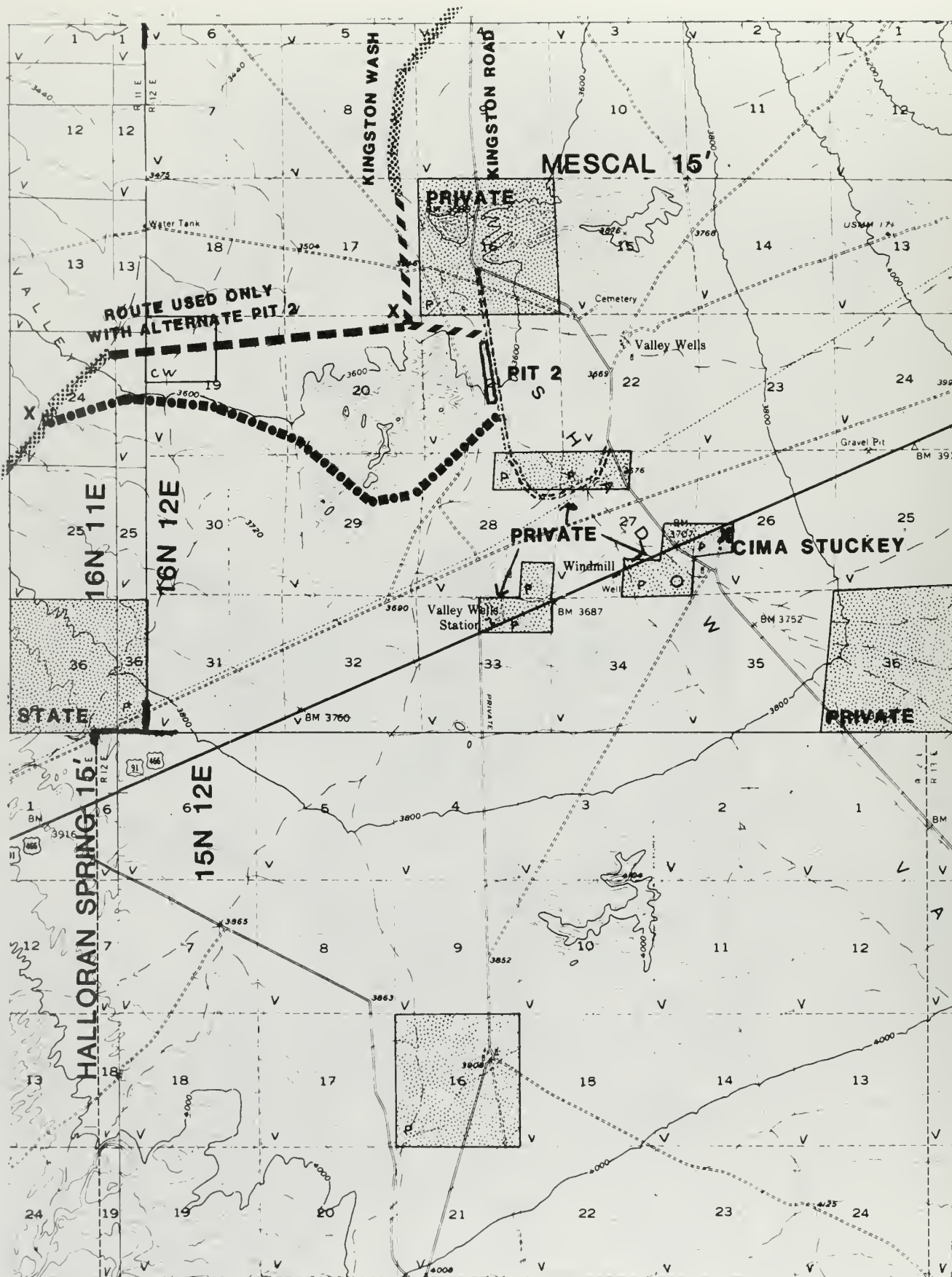


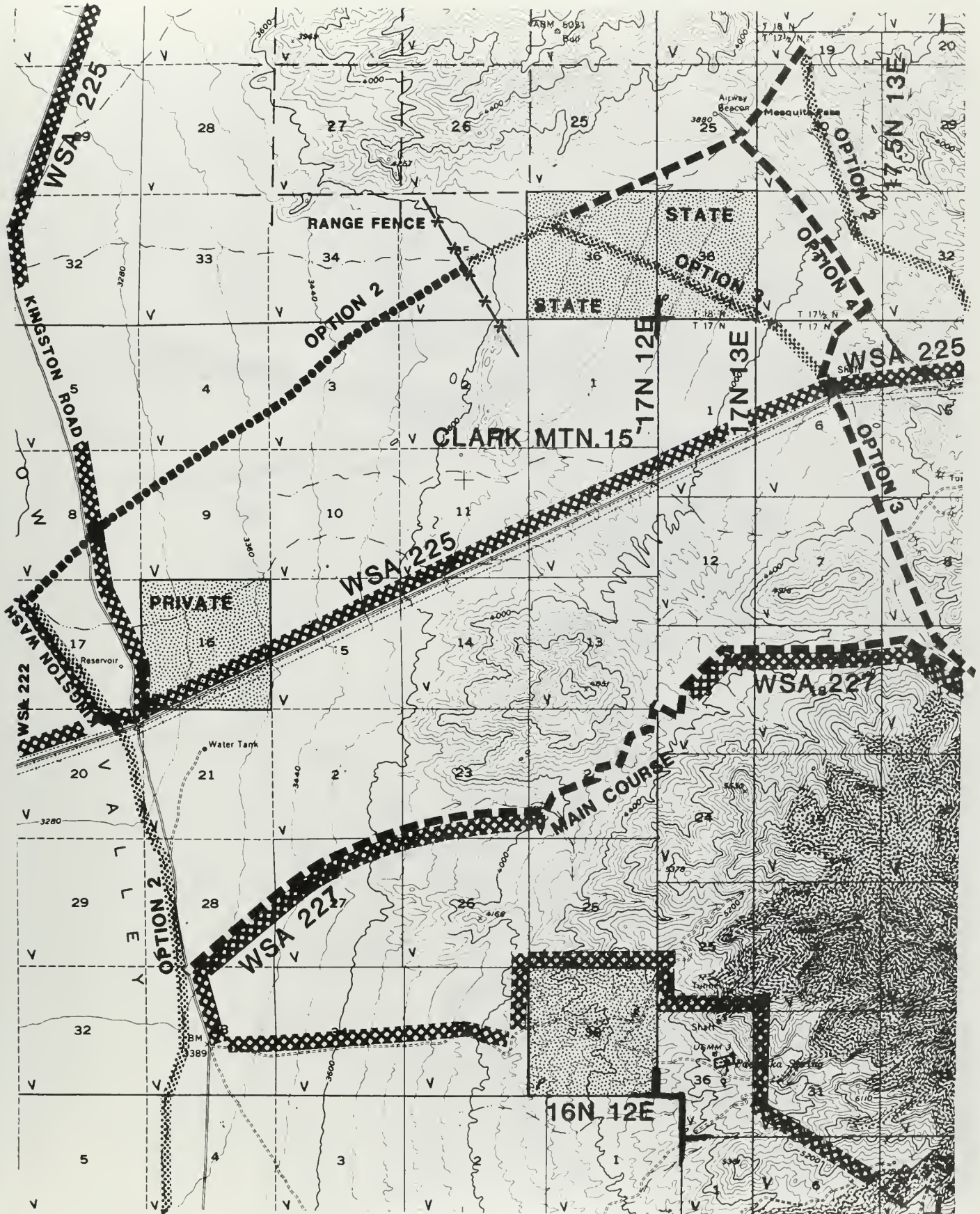


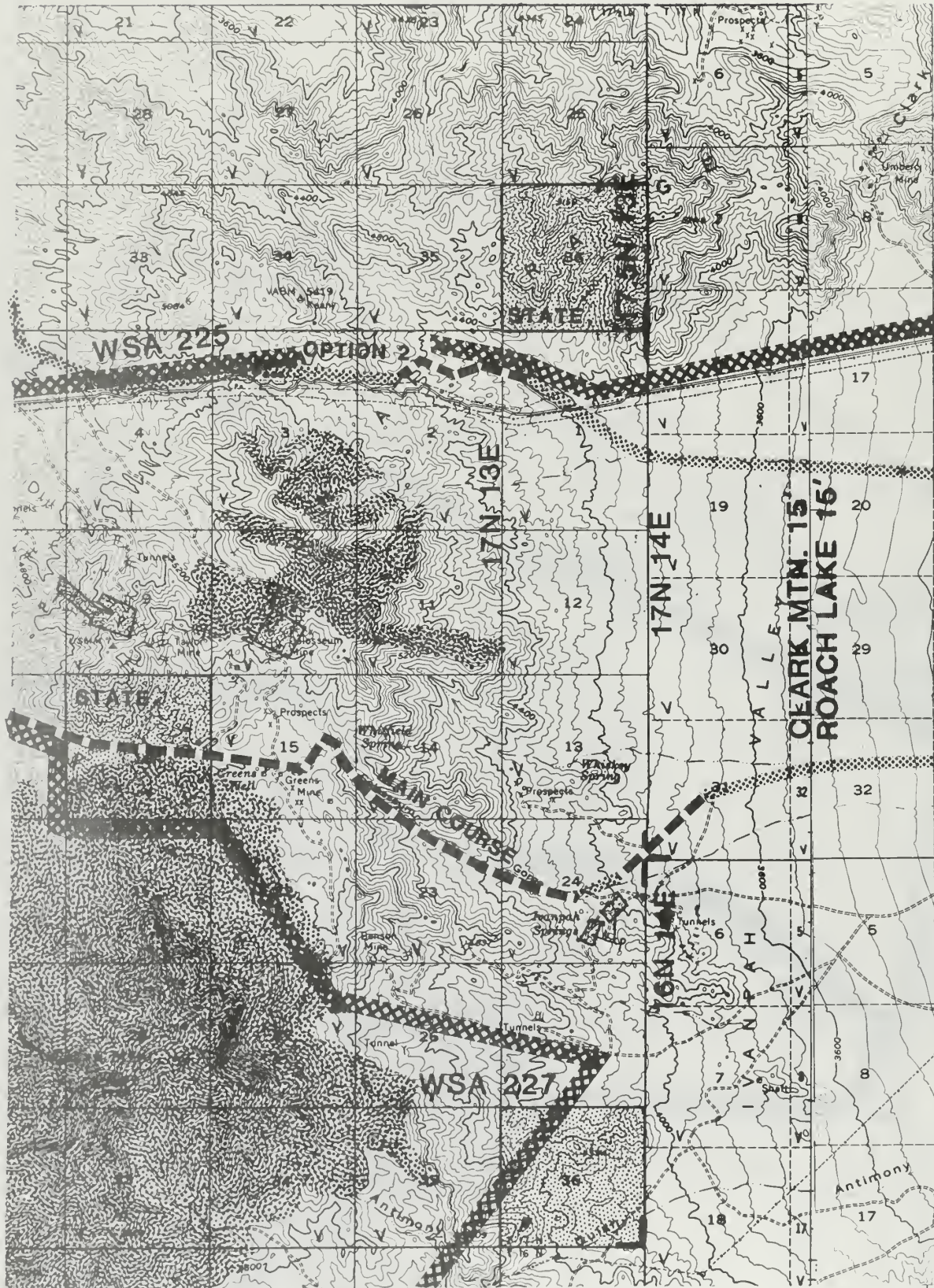


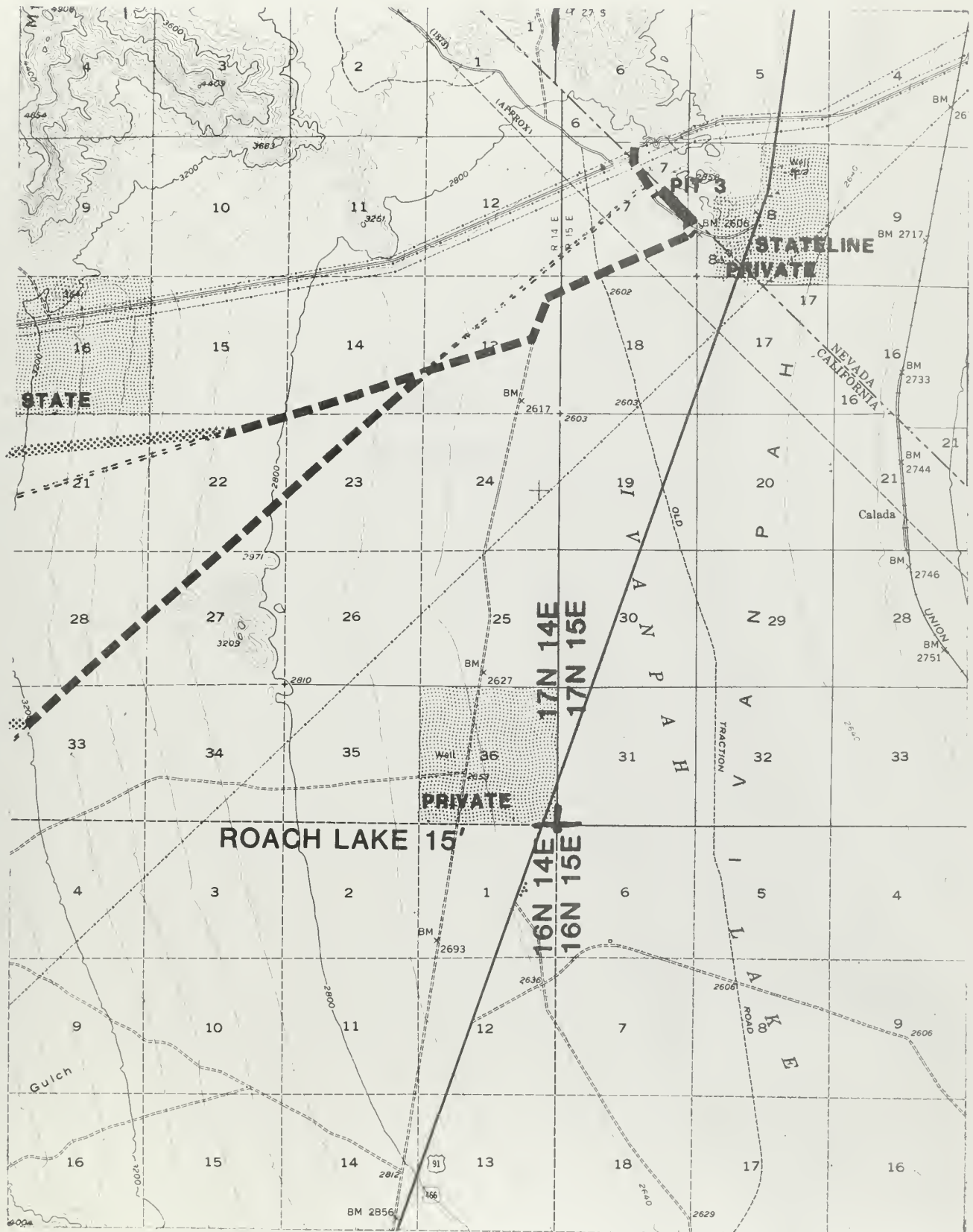












APPENDIX C
TEXT CHANGES

APPENDIX C

TEXT CHANGES

AMENDMENT THREE: REVISE MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS ELEMENT

In the period following Plan approval at the end of 1980, substantial problems surfaced in implementation of the rules for vehicle access. Major issues were the route designation process, particularly and its unrealistic schedule, and the definition of "existing routes of travel," which relied on aerial photographs which many claimed were unavailable or non-existent. Many individuals and organizations, including both conservationists and vehicle recreationists, wanted clarification of the rules and a speeding-up of route approval in areas of major concern. They were joined by Bureau recreation specialists who found that the vehicle access element needed considerable improvement as a management tool.

The revised Motorized Vehicle Element presented here is the result of a cooperative effort of conservationists, motorized vehicle users, the Multiple-Use Advisory Council, and the Bureau staff to produce an element which would be acceptable to all proponents and which would be an instrument for achieving the goals of the California Desert Plan.

*MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS ELEMENT

Other than those who are simply crossing it, most users of the desert travel some of the time on its network of maintained gravel and dirt roads, ways, trails, and accessible desert washes. There are many of these "routes of travel" in the CDCA.

According to one study, the CDCA has 15,000 miles of paved and maintained roads, 21,000 miles of unmaintained dirt roads, and 7,000 miles of vehicle-accessible washes. However, these routes are not evenly distributed, and desert topography and vegetation do not prevent, and sometimes¹ encourage, cross-country travel in motorized vehicles. Desert soils and vegetation retain the marks of this kind of travel for many years, except in a few places where occasional rains, windstorms, and flash floods erase them. Thus, one vehicle traveling cross-country can create a new route of travel. The proliferation of roads and trails in the CDCA has resulted in a serious problem in many areas and provides the most difficult management issue for BLM and the public.

Many of the Desert's loveliest and most fragile resources can only be enjoyed by use of vehicle access routes, but these resources are quickly destroyed if vehicles travel everywhere. Most people who go to the desert revel in its spaciousness and the feeling of solitude and freedom it provides. However,

¹ Underlines indicate changes from the Desert Plan

growing numbers of vehicles and expansion of this network of roads and trails damage this solitude, and heavy-handed regulations to control this traffic would certainly affect the sense of freedom.

The question of managing access to the desert is especially sensitive because it is confused with the use of vehicles for play as well as for gaining access for dunebuggies, motorcycles, and some four-wheel drive vehicles classified by some under the general heading of "ORVs." Public comments make it clear that motorized - vehicle access and off-highway vehicle play need to be clearly separated and managed differently. To this end, management direction for competitive events is found in the Recreation Element. By this amendment, all references to the route approval process contained elsewhere in the Plan are to be interpreted consistent with this revision. It should be clearly understood that both the Recreation Element and this element are subject to, and bound by 43 CFR 8342.1. Compliance will be demonstrated through environmental assessment documents up to and including, for significant actions, an Environmental Impact Statement for competitive events. For the route approval process, compliance begins with the criteria for decisions (see p. C-11) and continues throughout the process.

While the Bureau is responsible for vehicle use on public lands, much of the control of vehicle travel in the desert would be the responsibility of the user, whether the goal is recreational or commercial. The Bureau of Land Management does not and will not have the funds or staff to oversee vehicle use throughout the desert at all times. Therefore, rules for vehicle use must be fair, understandable, easy to follow, and reasonable if they are to be publicly accepted. Only commitment by the public, the owners of these lands, will insure success of rules and guidelines.

The outline for this element is as follows:

GOALS

ACTIONS PLANNED

AREA DESIGNATIONS

STOPPING AND PARKING

ACCESS ON WASHES, DUNES AND DRY LAKES

IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIES

AREA DESIGNATION PROCESS

ON-THE-GROUND IMPLEMENTATION

ON-THE-GROUND IMPLEMENTATION

INTERIM MANAGEMENT OF VEHICLE ACCESS

REVISIONS

VEHICLE ACCESS PENDING IMPLEMENTATION

MONITORING

ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE, AND COOPERATION

GOALS

The goal of the Motorized-Vehicle Access Element is to provide a system and set of rules governing access to the CDCA by motor vehicles. Specific objectives included are:

1. To avoid or minimize damage or degradation of the natural, cultural, and aesthetic values of the desert.
2. To provide a reasonable network of "routes of travel" which meets the needs of desert users, including commercial users and BLM's "neighbors," the private landowners, and other public-land managing agencies in the CDCA.
3. To reduce to the greatest possible degree conflicts among the desert users.
4. To provide an element that is understandable, easy to follow, acceptable, and supported and encouraged by most desert users.
5. To implement and manage these programs efficiently, economically, and cooperatively.
6. To provide for "appropriate" use of off-road recreational vehicles as directed by FLPMA and in conformance with Executive Orders 11644 and 11989, and 43CFR 8340.

ACTIONS PLANNED

The goals of the element will be accomplished by establishing rules for managing motorized-vehicle access on public lands, designating areas for appropriate

vehicle access, implementing decisions, and establishing a desert-wide monitoring program by the end of fiscal year 1987.

AREA DESIGNATIONS

In accordance with legislation and policy, all public land in the California desert is designated "open," "closed," or "limited" for vehicle use. The area designations are made on the basis of multiple-use classes with certain exceptions as set forth in this element.

Laws, executive orders, policies, and regulations which cover motorized-vehicle use on public lands are described in detail in Appendix VI to the Proposed Plan (October 1980).

Vehicle access designations and their relationship to multiple-use classes are established by the Plan as follows:

Open

Vehicles may travel anywhere within the area. This will apply to (1) those lands in Class I specifically designated "open" for vehicle travel, as shown on Map 10; and (2) certain sand dunes and dry lakebeds as listed in Table 8.

Closed

No vehicle travel is allowed. This will apply to (1) all wilderness areas when established by Congress unless exempted; (2) land in ACECs where provided for in the management plan for the ACEC; (3) certain sand dunes and dry lakebeds as listed in Table 8, and areas listed in Table 9 which are closed under the Interim Critical Management Plan (ICMP) (1973) and will remain so.

Note: Although the Motorized-Vehicle Access map (Map 10) shows all of Class C as "closed," vehicle access in these areas will be limited as described below until such a time as Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations. They are shown on the map to illustrate what areas would be "closed" to vehicle access if Congress designates these areas as wilderness.

Several areas closed for access under the ICMP are proposed for continued closure or are preliminarily recommended as wilderness or restricted under ACEC Management Plans. Implementation may or may not involve boundary adjustments. To avoid a redesignation process and also to avoid misunderstanding

in interpretation of the Plan maps, the areas listed in Table 8, as "closed" under the ICMP, will remain closed under the Plan regardless of underlying class, unless modified by subsequent implementing action.

In addition, the following areas which have been closed under interim actions, or are closed by virtue of nonwilderness protection items in the Plan, are:

Desert Tortoise Natural Area	L
Darwin Falls	M
Mecca Hills (NW half)	C
Squaw Spring	L

TABLE 8

Areas Designated "Closed" Under ICMP Which Remain Closed Under Desert Plan

<u>ICMP NUMBER</u>	<u>AREA NAME</u>	<u>MULTIPLE USE CLASS</u>
1	Eureka Dunes	C
2	North Saline Valley	C
6a	Owens Peak	C
6b	El Paso Mountain	C
17	Amargosa Canyon	L
22	Clark Mountain	L
24	Kelso Dunes	C
33	Whipple Mountains	C
34	Turtle Mountains	C
43	Desert Lily	L
51	Orocopia Mountains	C
57	San Sebastian Marsh	L
62a	West and SW Areas of Davies Valley (In-Ko-Pa Mountains)	C
63	Crucifixion Thorn	L
64	Area Between Pinto Wash and International Boundary	L
66	Imperial Sand Dunes north of State Route 78	C

Limited

"Limited" vehicle access means that motorized vehicle access is allowed only on certain routes of travel, which include roads, ways, trails and washes. At the minimum, use will be restricted to existing routes of travel. An existing route of travel is a route established before approval of the Desert Plan in 1980, with a minimum width of two feet, showing surface evidence of prior vehicle use or, for washes, history of prior use. Where necessary, other limitations will be stipulated.

In all areas of limited vehicle use, special attention will be given to identifying conflict areas, zones of route proliferation, and specific sites or resources being damaged by vehicle use. The public will be involved in each step of this process. Appropriate actions will then be taken to reduce or eliminate the problem, depending on the multiple-use class and degree of control needed:

Class I: those areas not 'open' will be limited to use of existing routes.

Class M: access will be on existing routes, unless it is determined that use on specific routes must be limited further. Extra controls to be considered are: (1) closing routes on a permanent or seasonal basis, (2) establishing speed limits, or (3) requiring use permits.

Class L: Due to higher levels of resource sensitivity in Class L, vehicle access will be directed toward use of approved routes of travel. Approved routes will include "primary access routes" intended for regular use and linking desert attractions for the general public as well as "secondary access routes" intended to meet specific user needs. Routes not approved for vehicle access will be reviewed and, after opportunity for public comment, those routes deemed to conflict with management objectives or to cause unacceptable resource damage will be given priority for closure through obliteration, barricading, or signing. These closures will be enforced to the maximum capability of BLM. All remaining routes of travel will be monitored for either inclusion as approved routes, or for closure to resolve specific problems.

Class C and ACECs: in Class C areas prior to wilderness designation by Congress, and in ACECs where vehicle use is allowed, vehicle access will be managed under the guidelines for Class L.

Undesignated areas: In areas not assigned to a Multiple-Use Class, the route approval process will be applied as needed to resolve specific problems and to establish a cohesive program.

STOPPING AND PARKING

Stopping and parking and/or vehicular camping along "routes of travel" will be limited to within 100 feet of the route. In some locations, specific parking or stopping areas may be signed "open" or "closed" to protect fragile or sensitive resources adjacent to the route, or to provide a safe place to stop. The intent of this policy is to curtail the uncontrolled widening and/or extension of access routes by vehicles stopping or parking along the route.

ACCESS ON WASHES, SAND DUNES, AND DRY LAKES

Washes

Vehicle access using desert washes will be governed by the area designation for the vicinity in which the wash is located. In areas designated "closed," vehicle access in desert washes will be prohibited. In areas designated "open," vehicle access in desert washes will be permitted. In all "limited" areas, vehicle use in desert washes will be controlled as indicated earlier for routes of travel in Class L, M and I. In addition, washes as access routes may have some type of travel limitation, such as speed limits or seasonal closure, imposed to protect the resources found in or along the wash.

Sand Dunes and Dry Lakes

Because of the unique geography of these areas, "routes of travel" cannot be readily delineated. Therefore, significant sand dunes and dry lakes within the California desert are designated either "open" or "closed" to vehicular travel regardless of the multiple-use class in which the dune system or dry lake is located. The management objective for each dune system or dry lake will dictate the area's vehicle-use designation. Special monitoring requirements will be needed to protect the resource values in these areas, which are listed in Table 9.

Table 9

Designated Vehicle Access for Significant Dry Lakes and Sand Dunes in the CDCA

<u>Dry Lakes</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Motor Vehicle Access</u>
1. Salt Dry Lake	L	Closed
2. Mesquite Dry Lake	M	Closed
3. Ivanpah Dry Lake	L	Closed ¹
4. Silurian Dry Lake	I	Open
5. Superior Dry Lake	L	Closed ^{1,4}
6. Harper Dry Lake	L	Closed ^{1,4}
7. El Mirage Dry Lake	I	Open
8. Soggy Dry Lake	I	Open
9. Melville Dry Lake	I	Open
10. Means Dry Lake	I	Open
11. Soda Dry Lake	L	Closed ³
12. Ford Dry Lake	M	Open
13. Panamint Dry Lake (south Hwy. 190)	L	Open
14. Panamint Dry Lake	L	Closed
15. Silver Dry Lake	L	Closed ²
16. Coyote Dry Lake	M	Closed
<u>Sand Dunes</u>		
1. Eureka Dunes	C	Closed
2. Saline Dunes	L	Closed
3. Panamint Dunes	C	Closed
4. Dumont Dunes	I	Open
5. Kelso Dunes	C	Closed
6. Cadiz Dunes	L	Closed

Table 9 (Con't)

<u>Sand Dunes</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Motor Vehicle Access</u>
7. Imperial/Algodones/Dunes	C	Closed
	L	Open
	I	Open
8. Rice Valley Dunes	M	Open
9. Olancho Dunes	M	Open

¹Open to non-motorized vehicles access (see Recreation Element).

²Except by permit

³Except for approved route(s) of travel.

⁴Limited passage of vehicles across lake; no motorized vehicle free play.

IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIES

On-the-ground implementation of vehicle designations will be established, based on the following considerations, in order of priority:

1. Due to the sensitivity of the inventoried resources, highest priority will be given to Multiple-Use Class C (WSA) and L areas and ACECs and Special Areas which are currently experiencing vehicle use inconsistent with the management objectives.
2. Priority will be given to marking the boundaries of those open areas in Class I where high potential for confusion over boundaries exists especially the boundaries of military reservations.
3. Vehicle-access limitations will be implemented in Multiple-Use Class M areas which are currently experiencing vehicle use inconsistent with the management objectives.

4. Vehicle-access limitations will be implemented in Multiple-Use Class C and L areas in which there is little intensive vehicle use.
5. Vehicle-access limitations will be implemented in the remainder of Multiple-Use Class M areas and Multiple-Use Class I areas.

AREA DESIGNATION PROCESS

Approval of the Plan constitutes the designation of all public lands in the CDCA. All "open" and "closed" areas identified on the Motorized-Vehicle Access Element map (Map 10) are designated and appropriate documentation actions are being initiated. "Limited" areas will require detailed analysis to insure that each area's limitations are appropriate to the issues and resources involved. Until such limitations are put into effect, these areas will be managed on an interim basis as explained under 'Interim Management of Vehicle Access.'

ON-THE-GROUND IMPLEMENTATION

The vehicle-management designations "open," "closed," and "limited" are commensurate with the multiple-use class management objectives for each area. While vehicle-access designations generally follow multiple-use class boundaries, there are several cases where the area's vehicle designation may be either more restrictive or less restrictive than that of the surrounding multiple-use class. Examples include ACECs, Special Areas, sand dunes, and dry lakes. Designated vehicle access, as it generally will be applied, is described below.

Open Areas

Vehicle use in open areas is restricted by the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in 43 CFR 8341 and 8343. Open area designations are effective with Plan approval.

ORV-play open areas will be signed and identified on maps for public distribution. In open areas that abut private lands, BLM will provide information which will encourage recreationists to avoid unauthorized use. Signs and brochures will be used, as well as on-site personnel or the placement of permanent kiosks.

Military land boundaries adjacent to motorized play open areas will be signed,

and maps will be noted, "Department of Defense Installation, NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC ACCESS." A complete discussion of open areas can be found in the Recreation Element of the Final Plan, and in Appendix V to the Proposed Plan of October, 1980.

Closed Areas

All closed areas will be signed where necessary to prevent unauthorized use, and identified on maps for public distribution.

Limited (Vehicle Use) Areas

Based on implementation priorities, BLM will, with assistance from the public, determine which routes in Class L and M areas need to be closed or limited in some other way. Route approval will be based on these considerations:¹

1. Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.
2. Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.
3. Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.
4. Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Areas and trails shall be located in antural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

Routes not approved for vehicle access would in most instances be obliterated, barricaded, signed or otherwise marked. Wherever possible, natural and/or physical barriers would be used to close routes rather than a multitude of signs.

¹ From 43 C.F.R. 8342.1 (1981)

Multiple-Use Class C

All public lands in Multiple-Use Class C are recommended as suitable for wilderness (see Wilderness Element). Congressionally designated wilderness areas are, by law closed to motorized-vehicle. Accordingly, as Congress acts and designates these or any other areas as wilderness, the public lands will be designated "closed" to vehicle use unless exempted. On-the-ground implementation will involve boundary signing and maps.

Vehicle use on lands preliminarily recommended as suitable for wilderness, but not yet designated by Congress as wilderness, will be managed under guidelines described for Multiple-Use Class L (see Wilderness Element). Limitations on vehicle access are necessary to protect wilderness values as well as other significant resources. Any vehicle access routes within the suitable WSA will be analysed in management plan preparations.

Maps

In Multiple-Use Class I areas not open to vehicle play, Class M and L areas, and proposed Class C areas, the existing route network will be recorded on 7 1/2 or 15 minute USGS maps. The inventory will make use of aerial photos, State and Federal agency maps, and other sources. As many routes will be identified as practical. These maps will then be used to monitor vehicle use impacts and to produce maps for public use.

Once the inventory is reasonably complete, "primary access route" will be designated by each Area Office. These routes, including some washes, will be those upon which the BLM (with public input) wishes to encourage use. They will be signed on-the-ground with numbers or names that will also be on BLM produced maps.

Maps are management tools as well as aids to vehicle users. General access maps in the future will show the basic access network and other selected routes whose use causes few if any problems. It is likely that some open routes will not be shown if such "advertisement" would cause user or resource conflict due to heavier use. As a matter of policy, closed routes will be shown only as a short spur to mark the intersection with approved routes. Detailed maps showing secondary access routes will be made available for a fee.

Signs

Signs are also important management tools, which are necessary because many desert users will not have BLM maps. Any decisions to limit use of a road or

area must be reflected in on-the-ground signs. Designated route zones and their approved routes, open and closed area boundaries, and the basic access network will receive priority in the signing program. Signs will be designed and placed only where necessary, to minimize visual impact.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT OF VEHICLE ACCESS

Since 1973 BLM has managed access and recreation and recreation-vehicle use under the Interim Critical Management Program (ICMP). An integral part of that program was the release of a series of 22 maps covering the entire CDCA. These maps illustrate the ICMP designations through the use of a color code and a network of access routes compiled from existing maps, public input, and field review. These maps show access in far greater detail than the small-scale desertwide map issued at the same time which simply showed designations.

With approval of the Desert Plan, the new designations have become effective. There are, however, major changes in designations from the ICMP. The ICMP maps and designations will no longer apply. Until implementation of this element is complete, the following guidelines are in effect:

Existing routes of travel may be used in all Class L and M areas, and in those Class I areas not designated open, unless other limitations are in effect. Tables 8 and 9 list all closed areas. In some areas, certain routes have been closed under ICMP guidelines -- these will remain closed. As implementation proceeds, some old limitations may be revoked and others added; the public will be notified as changes are made.

In Class C areas vehicle use will occur as if the areas were Class L until such time as the area formally becomes wilderness, except in those cases where vehicle use could impair wilderness characteristics.

In wilderness study areas not recommended as suitable vehicle use will be managed according to the guidelines for the class that area has been assigned, or according to the guidelines set forth in the WSA Interim Management Policy, whichever is more restrictive.

REVISIONS

Decisions affecting vehicle access, such as area designations and specific route limitations, are intended to meet present access needs and protect sensitive resources. Future access needs or protection requirements may require changes in these designations or limitations, or the construction of new routes. For mining operations, additional access needs will be considered in accordance with the Bureau's Exploration and Mining - Wilderness

Review Program regulations (43 CFR 3802) and Surface Management of Public Lands Under the U.S. Mining Laws (43CFR 3809). Access needs for other uses, such as roads to private lands, grazing developments, or communication sites, would be reviewed on an individual basis under the authority outlined in Title V of FLPMA. Each proposal would be evaluated for environmental effects and subjected to public review and comment. As present access needs become obsolete or as considerable adverse impacts are identified through the monitoring program, area designations or route limitations will be revised.

MONITORING

A major component of the vehicle-access element is the monitoring of impacts resulting from vehicle use. The analysis of impacts and reassessment of management decisions is an integral part of the Bureau's response to the legislative mandate.

The primary objectives of the motorized-vehicle access monitoring program are to:

1. Identify and document when unacceptable levels and kinds of impacts occur on natural, cultural, and historic values.
2. Identify when impacts will preclude corrective or rehabilitative actions.
3. Identify the type of vehicle equipment and/or related use which is causing, or likely to cause, impacts.
4. Provide the information necessary to make immediate and long-range decisions on the use or prohibition of vehicles on designated or existing access routes.

Recommendations of monitoring efforts must be specific to each individual area, taking into consideration such issues as access needs, use levels, user conflicts, and impacts on resources. Monitoring efforts may vary. Monitoring techniques include field observations, remote sensing, ground photographs, and environmental study plots.

Options to limit, designate, or close specific travel routes or areas will be available to the manager. These options will be invoked when monitoring reveals that Plan objectives are not being met because of identified adverse effects resulting from vehicle travel.

ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE, AND COOPERATION

Enforcement of these vehicle designations would rely heavily on indirect, cooperative actions, such as voluntary compliance, peer pressure, public information brochures and maps, educational/awareness programs, and access route signing.

Access and area designation planning would be done in close coordination with desert users so that all legitimate access needs can be incorporated into the designation. In sensitive areas or where these compliance methods are not successful, other methods would be employed. These methods include emergency closures, special access permits, issuance of right-of-way easements, or further restriction of the route(s) in question to provide additional use limitations (season of use, limitations on the number or types of vehicles permitted, speed limits, etc.). Direct law enforcement, either by contractual agreement with local law enforcement agencies, or by Bureau Desert Rangers and/or visitor services specialists, would be a last-resort option.

Volunteers will be actively sought to help implement the program. Route designation tasks in these projects would include sign placement, obliteration of closed routes, and identification of access needs.

AMENDMENT TWO:
 MULTIPLE-USE CLASS GUIDELINES CHANGES FOR G-E-M (Gems-Energy-Minerals) Resources.
 Changes proposed for the MUC Guidelines in response to modifications of the Bureau 3809 regulations and to requests that guidelines for geothermal power plants and for vehicular access for mineral exploration and development be the same in Classes L and M.

MULTIPLE-USE CLASS GUIDELINES

	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS C Controlled Use (Wilderness Management)	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS L Limited Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS M Moderate Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS I Intensive Use
4 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	(Note: Class C identifies areas "preliminarily recommended" for wilderness designation by Congress. These guidelines summarize the kinds of management likely to be used in these areas after formal designation of wilderness by Congress.)	Archaeological and paleontological values will be preserved and protected. Procedures described in 36 CFR 800 will be observed where applicable. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the BLM, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and for cultural resources the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to protect cultural resource values.		
5 NATIVE AMERICAN VALUES	Native American cultural and religious values will be preserved where relevant and protected where applicable. Native American group(s) shall be consulted. Memorandums of Agreement and Understanding have been signed between BLM and the Native American Heritage Commission pertaining to Native American concerns and cultural resources.			
6 ELECTRICAL GENERATION FACILITIES	Electrical generation plants are not allowed	Electrical generation plants may be allowed (See wind solar geothermal, below.) Existing facilities may be maintained and upgraded or improved in accordance with special-use permits or by amendments to rights-of-way	All types of electrical generation plants may be allowed in accordance with State, Federal, and local laws	
— Nuclear and Fossil Fuel Powerplants	Not allowed	Not allowed	May be allowed in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws	
— Wind Solar Powerplants	Not allowed	May be allowed pursuant to licenses issued under 43 CFR Section 3250, et seq. NEPA requirements will be met.	May be allowed alter NEPA requirements are met	
— Geothermal Powerplants	Not allowed	May be allowed pursuant to licenses issued under 43 CFR Section 3250, et seq. NEPA requirements will be met.	May be allowed pursuant to licenses issued under 43 CFR Section 3250, et seq. NEPA requirements will be met.	

Table 1.—Multiple-Use Class Guidelines—Continued

13. MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS C Controlled Use (Wilderness Management)	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS L Limited Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS M Moderate Use	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS I Intensive Use
	<p>These guidelines summarize the kinds of management likely to be used after formal designation of wilderness by Congress.</p> <p>Congressional enactment of wilderness will prescribe mining rules and possible cutoff dates for mineral entry. The information below indicates the possible restrictions after enactment.</p> <p>The following summarizes possible significant provisions of the Wilderness Act as it applies to mineral exploration and development after Congress officially designates the areas as wilderness. (For more detailed information, see the G-E-M Element or the Wilderness Act of Sept. 3, 1964).</p> <p>Minerals Prospecting and Exploration:</p> <p>Prospecting and exploration for the purpose of gathering information about mineral resources is allowed, provided such activity is carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment.</p> <p>Mineral Development:</p> <p>All designated wilderness areas may be withdrawn from mineral entry at sometime subsequent to Congressional designation. Following withdrawal, no new mining claims may be located, and no new permits, leases, or material sales contracts may be issued subject to deadlines established by Congress.</p> <p>Valid existing mining operations may continue pursuant to submission and approval of operational plans which will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of wilderness qualities.</p>	<p>Leasable Minerals</p> <p>Except as provided in Appendix 5/4, 516 DM 6, NEPA Procedures filed "Categorical Exclusions," prior to issuing any mineral leases, an EA will be prepared on the proposed leasing action. Mitigation measures will be required to protect sensitive scenic, ecological, wildlife, vegetative, and cultural values.</p> <p>Prior to any operations upon mineral leases, the operator shall submit the appropriate notices or applications to BLM or the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as appropriate, as specified in 43 CFR 3100, 3200, 3500.</p> <p>All applications submitted to the USGS shall be treated under existing joint BLM/USGS procedures (i.e., S.O. 2948) and other applicable regulations. Reclamation requirements are contained within these procedures.</p>	<p>Leasable Minerals</p> <p>Except as provided in Appendix 5/4, 516 DM 6, NEPA Procedures filed "Categorical Exclusions," prior to issuing any mineral leases, an EA will be prepared on the proposed leasing action. Mitigation measures will be required to protect sensitive scenic, ecological, wildlife, vegetative, and cultural values.</p> <p>Prior to any operations upon mineral leases, the operator shall submit the appropriate notices or applications to BLM or the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as appropriate, as specified in 43 CFR 3100, 3200, 3500.</p> <p>All applications submitted to the USGS shall be treated under existing joint BLM/USGS procedures (i.e., S.O. 2948) and other applicable regulations. Reclamation requirements are contained within these procedures.</p>	<p>Leasable Minerals</p> <p>Except as provided in Appendix 5/4, 516 DM 6, NEPA Procedures filed "Categorical Exclusions," prior to issuing any mineral leases, an EA will be prepared on the proposed leasing action. Mitigation measures will be required to protect sensitive scenic, ecological, wildlife, vegetative, and cultural values.</p> <p>Prior to any operations upon mineral leases, the operator shall submit the appropriate notices or applications to BLM or the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as appropriate, as specified in 43 CFR 3100, 3200, 3500.</p> <p>All applications submitted to the USGS shall be treated under existing joint BLM/USGS procedures (i.e., S.O. 2948) and other applicable regulations. Reclamation requirements are contained within these procedures.</p>
		<p>Locatable Minerals</p> <p>Location of mining claims is nondiscretionary. Operations on mining claims are subject to the 43 CFR 3809 Regulations and applicable State and local law. In most instances, plans of operation shall be required and treated as specified in the above regulation.</p> <p>An EA shall be prepared on the proposed plans of operations. As this class is a sensitive area of public concern, a 60-day public review period shall be held on all mining and reclamation plans filed in this class.</p> <p>BLM will review plans of operations for potential impacts on sensitive resources identified on lands in this class. Mitigation, subject to technical and economic feasibility, will be required.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals</p> <p>Location of mining claims is nondiscretionary. Operations on mining claims are subject to the 43 CFR 3809 Regulations and applicable State and local law. In most instances, plans of operation shall be required and treated as specified in the above regulation.</p> <p>NEPA requirements will be met.</p> <p>BLM will review plans of operations for potential impacts on sensitive resources identified on lands in this class. Mitigation, subject to technical and economic feasibility, will be required.</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals</p> <p>Location of mining claims is nondiscretionary. Operations on mining claims are subject to the 43 CFR 3809 Regulations and applicable State and local law. In most instances, plans of operation shall be required and treated as specified in the above regulation.</p> <p>NEPA requirements will be met.</p> <p>BLM will review plans of operations for potential impacts on sensitive resources identified on lands in this class. Mitigation, subject to technical and economic feasibility, will be required.</p>

		Saleable Minerals		Saleable Minerals	
		Except as provided in Appendix 5.4, 516 DM 6, NEPA procedures titled "Categorical Exclusions," new material sales locations, including sand and gravel sites, will require an EA.		Except as provided in Appendix 5.4, 516 DM 6, NEPA procedures titled "Categorical Exclusions," for new sites less than 5 acres in size, an EA shall be required for all material sales locations, including sand and gravel. For new sites greater than 5 acres, or in sites less than 5 acres where the EA indicates a significant level of adverse impacts, an EIS shall be required.	
14. MOTORIZED-VEHICLE ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION		Continued use of existing areas of sand and gravel extractions is allowed subject to BLM permits, as specified in 43 CFR 3600.		Motorized-vehicle use will be allowed on "existing" routes of travel unless designated closed by the authorized officer. New routes may be allowed upon approval of the authorized officer.	
		Same as Class M. In addition, the vehicle open areas are available for unrestricted vehicle access (see Recreation Element).		Motorized-vehicle use may be allowed (see Motorized-Vehicle Access Element)	
		Access will be provided for mineral exploration and development		Access will be provided for mineral exploration and development	
		Compliance with Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 as applied to motorized-vehicle access will be assured.		Access will be provided for mineral exploration and development	
15. RECREATION	— Railroads	No new railroads and trams will be allowed. Existing railroads and trams may be operated and maintained subject to nonimpairment of wilderness values	Railroads and trams may be allowed to serve authorized uses if no other viable alternative is possible.	Railroads and trams may be allowed.	This class is suitable for recreation activities which generally involve high user densities. A wide array of recreational opportunities will be found in this class. Off-road vehicle play will be allowed where approved in open areas.
	— Aircraft	Aircraft facilities are not allowed	Temporary landing strips may be allowed by permit.	Airports and landing strips may be allowed by lease subject to conformance with county or regional airport plans and FAA and DOD approval.	Uses permitted are the same as Class M. In addition, motorized vehicle play is allowed in areas designated "open." All aspects of competitive events will be permitted except where require permits.
		This class is suitable for nonmechanical types of recreational experience which generally involve low to very low user densities. Recreational opportunities provided include, but are not limited to, the following characteristic activities: — backpacking — primitive, unimproved site camping — hiking — horseback riding — rockhounding	This class is suitable for recreation which generally involves low to moderate user densities. Recreation opportunities include those permitted in Class C plus: — land-sailing on dry lakes — non-competitive vehicle touring and events only on "approved" routes of travel All organized vehicle events, competitive or not, require a permit specifying the conditions of use.	This class is suitable for a wide range of recreation activities which may involve moderate to high user densities. Recreational opportunities include those permitted in Class L. Competitive motorized vehicle events are limited to "existing" routes of travel and must be approved by the authorized officer. Pit, start, and finish areas must be designated by the authorized officer. All competitive events and organized events having 50 or more vehicles require permits.	This class is suitable for recreation activities which generally involve high user densities. A wide array of recreational opportunities will be found in this class. Off-road vehicle play will be allowed where approved in open areas.

APPENDIX D
AMENDMENTS NOT CONSIDERED

TABLE D-1
Amendments Deferred

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-65	<p><u>DESERT WIDE AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>Amend MUC Guidelines on Waste Disposal in Class L by adding the following statement: "All abandoned waste disposal sites will be cleaned up and landscaped to correspond with surrounding desert habitat. All currently functional waste disposal sites in Class L areas will be phased-out, and the areas they influence will be returned to natural desert habitat within five years." (California Department of Fish and Game)</p> <p><u>VEHICLE ACCESS - SITE SPECIFIC</u></p> <p>Make a land trade to re-establish a vehicle corridor from Death Valley National Monument via Wingate Wash and Wingate Pass to Panamint Valley. (Burgess L. Kay)</p> <p><u>CRAZING</u></p> <p>Amend Plan to include a grazing lease of approximately 250,000 acre in the Waucoba Springs area of Inyo County as follows: area will include Saline Valley, Cowhorn Valley, and Jackass Flats areas east of Inyo National Forest. An ephemeral/perennial grazing use of 2400 AUMs for cattle. (Scott and Claudia Blair)</p> <p>Amend Plan to include a grazing allotment in land which shows promise of being excellent cattle grazing land. Withhold wilderness-recommendation during water exploration. (Thomas Fogarty)</p>	<p>To continue allowing existing waste disposal sites to operate on BLM lands, to not clean up and return to native and natural conditions and abandoned sites... is not in the best interests of protecting the natural resources of California deserts.</p> <p>This once famous jeep trail was a great loss. It could be re-established with minimum intrusion into the military.</p> <p>This proposed use would make the area more useful by providing revenue from grazing fees. Water development of springs and groundwater might provide additional water for wildlife.</p> <p>There are palatable feeds in this area, but water exploration is a necessity. Water exploration would require activities not compatible with wilderness, so request is made to withhold these lands from wilderness status so that water exploration can occur.</p>	<p>Will be considered for incorporation into Plan as a clarification.</p> <p>Defer until future; no specific time goal.</p> <p>Defer until Congress acts on Wilderness.</p> <p>Defer until Congress Acts on Wilderness.</p>
82-P-5			
82-P-9			
82-P-10			

TABLE D-1

Amendments Deferred

<u>Prelim. Amend. No.</u>	<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Proponent's Reason for Submission</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
	<u>AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN; SPECIAL AREAS</u>		
82-P-27a	Delete Clark Mountain ACEC (#19). (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	Bureau has little or no control over "preservation" of historic mining remains. Pachalka Springs is in private ownership. Terrain restricts possible impacts occurring from current "road" system.	Hold until litigation on East Mojave National Scenic Area is complete.
82-P-27b	Delete East Mojave National Scenic Area. (Richard Gochnaur, DART; California Mining Association).	The designation is meaningless and merely adds another layer of bureaucratic red tape. All stated goals can be achieved by use of the Multiple-Use Class Guidelines without a special designation.	Hold until litigation on East Mojave National Scenic Area is complete.
82-P-86	Delete Cronese Basin ACEC. (Rick Hammel, ANA, District 37)	No authority ever existed for the designation of the ENNSA, and it was not presented in the draft or proposed plans and was not addressed in the EIS. By designating the ENNSA in the final plan without presenting it as an alternative in either the EIS or proposed plan, the BLM failed to meet the procedural requirements of the NEPA.	Hold until litigation on Cronese Basin ACEC is complete.
	<u>CHANGES IN MULTIPLE-USE CLASS - NON-WILDERNESS</u>		
82-P-25	Change Cuddeback (PU 28a) area from Class L to Class N. (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	Management as "existing" routes of travel, with possible closure of some routes, is a more practical management direction for this area. Current vehicle use in the area on the existing system of routes of travel does not appear to be causing undue impacts.	Defer to 1983.
82-P-26	Change Clark Mountain from L to M. (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	Amount of development within area (mining, grazing, residences, utility development) indicates need for less stringent management requirements; area previously heavily impacted, but little further impact likely to occur.	Defer to 1983.

TABLE D-1
Amendments Deferred

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-87	Change MUC of planning units 28 and 29 from Class L to Class M. (Rick Hammel, AMA, District 37)	These areas which have been readily impacted by prior and present ORV activity were improperly classified as Class L. There is no justification for this designation and the area should be redesignated Class M.	Defer to 1983.
82-P-2	<u>CHANGES IN WILDERNESS DESIGNATION</u> Change the following areas from Class C to Class M: WSAs 117, 119, 122, 123, 127, 134, 142, 156, 157, 158, 143, 145, 148, 150. (Lance Hinek, petition with 45 signatures).	These areas are effectively managed under existing Federal policies and procedures. If these areas were designated Class C, additional Federal expenditures would be required with no practical change from present usage.	USGS and US Bureau of Mines Mineral Surveys are in progress or will be conducted for this WSA. This amendment will be considered after survey completion.
82-P-91	WSA 355 (Indian Pass) - change Class C to Class M. (Atlantic Richfield Company)	This area's geologic environment is extremely favorable for metallic mineral potential.	Same as above.
82-P-7	<u>Vegetation Management</u> Protect Sclerocactus polyancistrus in area north of Barstow and throughout all BLM land between Victorville and Barstow up to six miles east of Mojave River. Change Class L land to Class C. Close all to ORV travel. (Richard May)	Grazing and ORV use are threats. Abnormally large specimens are found north of Barstow, some over 25" tall.	BLM botanists are seeking a prime example of Sclerocactus polyancistrus habitat for location of an ACEC. Will seek collaboration of the amendment proponent.
82-P-8	For protection of Sclerocactus polyancistrus, make certain areas south of Ridgecrest off-limits to grazing and ORV traffic until studies of vegetation have been completed. (Richard May)	An extremely rare form of Sclerocactus polyancistrus has been found in this area. Several hillsides in this area have been destroyed by sheep grazing.	Same as above.

TABLE D-2
Amendments Handled Through Administrative Action

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
	<u>DESERT WIDE AMENDMENTS</u>		
82-P-65	Change MUC Guidelines on Wildlife Species and Habitat-Reintroduction or Introduction of Established Exotic Species as follows: for all MUC classes, add "The reintroduction or introduction of established exotic species is allowed only following approval of the California Department of Fish and Game." (California Department of Fish and Game)	The presence of exotic species often poses continual management problems with native and rare and endangered fish and wildlife. The management and protection of fish and wildlife and designated endangered and rare plants are the responsibilities of the Department of Fish and Game.	Will be accomplished by clarification of wording in Wildlife Element and continued coordination with California Department of Fish and Game.
82-P-71	Publish a District Planning Newsletter. This would be a low cost monthly paper (similar to Energy Report) giving a brief summary of on-going major actions. (Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council)	Would help rectify one of the major problems encountered by both BLM personnel and the public: communication.	Proposal does not require a Plan amendment. BLM will consider suggestion.
82-P-72	Collection of Fees. Adopt following wording: "BLM will collect from applicants for special use or other permit fees sufficient to recover at least one-half, but not more than full cost of Bureau efforts to administratively process the permit and perform any required environmental review or other necessary studies. This includes grazing and ORV event applications. Such fees shall be established and provided to applicants prior to consideration.", (Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council)	Would help recoup costs of services provided and would reduce artificial subsidy resulting from low or non-existing fees.	The action is outside scope of Desert Plan.
82-P-4	<u>VEHICLE ACCESS - SITE SPECIFIC</u> Close ORV corridor between Eureka Dunes and Palm Springs. Seek wilderness classification to effect permanent closures. Place Saline Range and Last Chance Range in a single wilderness unit. (John Hart)	The CDCA Plan does not clarify whether vehicle corridor between Saline Valley and Eureka Dunes is open or closed.	Proposal will be addressed in Wilderness Report.
82-P-6	Close areas near Pilot Knob to overnight camping. (Donna Bryson)	Winter visitors (campers) abuse this area and make it a dump site. Since there is insufficient money and manpower to prevent these conditions, the area should be closed to overnight camping.	Proposal will be addressed administratively at the Resource Area level.

TABLE D-2
Amendments Handled Through Administrative Action

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-38	Manage Class L portions of PUs 98, 99, 100, 101, and 102 as "existing routes of travel." (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	Due to the limited use of these areas and the general lack of impact caused by the use of the existing "road system", more stringent management is not necessary.	Proposal does not require an amendment of the plan, and will be addressed in the Revised Vehicle Access Guidelines (Amendment 3) and Route Designation Process.
82-P-39	Kramer Hills - Manage Kramer Hills ACEC (#38) as existing routes of travel. (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	Little damage appears to be caused from the use of the existing network of "routes of travel."	Proposal does not require an amendment to the plan. It will be addressed in the route designation process and in the Kramer ACEC Plan.
82-P-3	JAWBONE - BUTTERBREAD AREA Reclassify the Scodie 5 Area from L to M -- the area between Walker Pass and Mojave and from Kelso Valley to Highway 14. (James Wilson)	The area contains large amounts of roads and trails. There is high intensity use in the area all year round. It would be more economical to sign where not to go than where you can go in this area.	Proposal does not require an amendment of the plan. It will be addressed in the route designation process and in the Jawbone - Butterbread ACEC, to be completed in Sept., FY82.
82-P-42	Manage the area as "existing routes of travel." Removed locked gates preventing access to public lands. (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	No evidence that use of existing road network will cause undue impact.	Same as above.
82-P-82	For protection of private lands and landowners rights either a) close the open area, or b) trade out private lands within the open area. (Rudnick Estates Trust)	With the checkerboard of private and public land, it is impossible to tell boundaries and manage them separately.	Same as above.

TABLE D-2
Amendments Handled Through Administrative Action

"Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-43	Mojave Road - designate as "non-competitive motorized vehicle route of travel." (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	Recreationists seek continued use of this route of travel.	Proposal does not require an amendment of the plan, and will be addressed in the route designation process.
82-P-44	Amend whatever is necessary to provide for public access to ZZY2X (Fort Soda). (Vance Blair)	The government's public position over the years for taking back this area was to provide public access. The public had more access under Dr. Springer's management than it has now.	Proposal does not require an amendment of the plan, and will be addressed in the Management Plan for this area to be completed in FY83.
82-P-47	Dumont Dunes. Increase the Dumont Dunes Class I area to include that portion adjacent to the dunes over to the fork at the road which leads to Sperry Road. Management of the area should include a kiosk/message board to replace the one rumored by the BLM. (Vance Blair)	None provided.	Proposal does not require an amendment of the plan, and will be addressed by the Dumont Dunes Recreation Management Plan scheduled for FY85.
82-P-50	Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad route: - designate as an Recreational Vehicle Historic Trail its entire length. (Vance Blair)	The public use for this route is and has been historically a vehicle route of travel.	Project would require official designation as a National Historic Trail by the National Park Service.
82-P-70	Riverside Mountains - designate as a "closed" area to motorized vehicle access. (California Department of Fish and Game)	The area is important to burro deer and peregrine falcon. Human disturbance could adversely impact sensitive resources such as natural tanks/springs and deer fawning and foraging areas in desert wash systems at the base of the mountains. Peregrine falcons, a state-designated endangered species, have been observed in the Riverside Mountains during the nesting season. Incompatible activities such as recreational use and ORV activities should be eliminated in these areas or severely curtailed to provide these sensitive wildlife resources the maximum amount of protection possible.	Proposal does not require an amendment of the plan, and will be addressed by the Route Designation Process.

TABLE D-2
Amendments Handled Through Administrative Action

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-73	<u>Hidden Springs Canyon - close upper canyon to ORV use. (Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council)</u>	A serious recreational conflict exists here. A popular hiking trail enters this area from Box Canyon, visiting Sheep Hole Oasis, Hidden Spring, and The Grotto. The wash is also used with moderate frequency by dune buggies and 4WD vehicles who gain access to the mouth of the drainage along the Coachella Canal. The presence of motorized use is disruptive to the recreational experience of hikers, and speeding vehicles have caused several near-accidents. Closing the upper 1 1/2 miles of the wash would segregate these uses without seriously depriving ORV users of a major recreational opportunity, as several other similar washes in the area would remain available for existing use.	Proposal does not require an amendment of the plan, but would require change in Mecca Hills Activity Plan.
82-P-92	<u>Shadow Mountain - Close to Recreation Vehicle Travel, Recreational Vehicle Camping, and Sheep Grazing. (Susan Ottke)</u>	Recreational vehicles destroy the enjoyment of their property by owners of land in this checkerboard area. ORVs produce dust, trash, noise, crime and brush fire hazard. Sheep infest land with flies and other insects and eat the existing forage, exposing old motorcycle trails that have been grown over with new vegetation. Both grazing and ORV use cut new roads through the area.	BLM will coordinate with San Bernardino County, AWA, land owners and other interested persons to search for solution to this problem. The proposal is outside the scope of the plan amendment process.
82-P-33	<u>GRAZING</u> <u>Permit fencing of several sections adjacent to Old Woman Spring Ranch. (William Churchill)</u>	We own adjoining property and are going to put in permanent pasture to feed our cattle and horses from our ranch and would like the adjoining sections to run our stock after it is fenced.	Proposal does not require an amendment of the Plan and will be addressed in the Allotment Management Plan for the area.

TABLE D-2
Amendments Handled Through Administrative Action

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-69	<p><u>MULTIPLE-USE CLASS CHANGE - NONWILDERNESS</u></p> <p>Object to the proposed Lazy Daisy Grazing Allotment and the Ephemeral Grazing Allotment #63.</p> <p>The boundaries of grazing allotments 54 and 63 should be modified to circumvent and/or to avoid bighorn sheep habitat. Additionally, a study on the status of grazing impacts to bighorn sheep, deer, golden eagle, and prairie falcon and other desert biological resources should be completed by the BLM before grazing is allowed. (California Department of Fish and Game).</p> <p><u>AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN</u></p>	<p>Grazing activities would adversely affect known bighorn sheep vital areas. A known bighorn movement corridor that links sheep travel to other desert mountain ranges would be adversely impacted by livestock grazing activity. A threatened bighorn range is located at the northern terminus of the Palen Mtns. at the southeastern edge of the allotment. Probable adverse effects on golden eagle, prairie falcon, and other raptors.</p>	<p>Monitoring of bighorn sheep population and range conditions was a stipulation for enlarging the Lazy Daisy Grazing allotment. Similar programs will be considered for other sensitive areas. A plan amendment is not required.</p>
82-P-15	<p>Manage the West Rand Mountain ACEC (#2) under the stipulations used for the Desert Tortoise Natural Area. (Frank Hoover, Desert Tortoise Council)</p> <p><u>WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT</u></p>	<p>Continued vehicle use in this area is contributing to other losses of tortoises and decline of habitat. Protection of this area for desert tortoises might serve as a very minimal compensation for loss of Section 5 in the southern part of the DTNA (The loss of Section 5 jeopardizes the southern part of the Natural Area.</p>	<p>Proposal does not require an amendment of the plan, and will be addressed by the Rand ACEC Management Plan.</p>
82-P-67	<p>The proposed/prescribed Wildlife Management Habitat Management Plan (HMP) should incorporate Planned Management Area W-53, Chuckwalla Mountains (Bighorn Sheep Habitat), into the Corn Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect critical habitat for bighorn sheep, burro deer, and desert tortoise. (California Department of Fish and Game)</p>	<p>Only a remnant population of bighorn sheep presently exists, and the inclusion of the Chuckwalla Mtns into the Corn Springs ACEC would enable planning and implementation of projects to stabilize and potentially increase bighorn sheep and deer populations and protect desert tortoise. This HMP should be given a high priority due to the wildlife species involved and threats of ORV recreational and mining activities.</p>	<p>Proposal does not require a plan amendment, and will be addressed during preparation of Habitat Management Plan W-53.</p>

TABLE D-2
Amendments Handled Through Administrative Action

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-68	Extend Habitat Management Area W-4, Hunter-Cottonwood Mountain/Grapevine Canyon (bighorn sheep habitat) to include the Dry Mountain and the Last Chance Mountain ranges. (California Department of Fish and Game)	These ranges support bighorn sheep populations that require protection from competing land use.	Proposal does not require an amendment of the plan, and will be addressed during preparation of Hunter-Cottonwood Mountain/Grapevine Canyon HMP. Scheduled for completion in FY84.
82-P-32	<u>ENERGY PRODUCTION AND UTILITY CORRIDORS</u> Delete Utility Corridor K as an alternate transmission corridor. (Paul R. Pariseau)	This corridor would pass through the heart of Sky Valley and would have a deleterious effect on the residences and mobile home parks.	This corridor does not pass through Sky Valley. Proponent will be informed of its true location, and in the future, will be notified of any proposals to change its location.
82-P-12	<u>LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENT</u> Application to purchase withdrawn land in Inyo County within and adjacent to Haiweek Reservoir. (Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power)	Prime storage facility for Los Angeles water supply, existing dam must be reconstructed and City needs control of future use of that facility. The City's reconstruction of dam subject to Government approval City also concerned BLM may sanction incompatible recreational use of the facility and surrounding public lands.	Proposal does not require a plan amendment. Handle through land purchase.

TABLE D-3

Amendments Dropped

<u>Prelim. Amend. No.</u>	<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Proponent's Reason for Submission</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
82-P-17	<u>DESERT WIDE AMENDMENTS</u> Place an indefinite moratorium on the acceptance or implementation of new grazing allotments in the California Desert Conservation Area. (Frank Hoover, Desert Tortoise Council)	BLM lacks funds and staff now to meet commitments described in Desert Plan and Appendices. BLM has had to abandon the desert tortoise-cattle study in Ivanpah Valley because of lack of funds. There are indications that BLM will not have funds to continue baseline studies on the California desert trend plots for tortoises. Therefore, BLM should not be undertaking new livestock obligations until these commitments for studies and for monitoring have been met.	Amendment not needed. New allotments will be subject to NEPA process.
82-P-64	Do not allow development of geothermal, solar, and wind powered electrical generation plants and nuclear and fossil fuel power plants in Class L. (California Department of Fish and Game)	Class L is intended to protect sensitive natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural values. Use of public lands for development of power plants is not considered a low intensity endeavor and should be limited to Class M and I.	Geothermal, solar, and wind resources may be located in only Class L land. Nuclear and fossil fuel power plants are not presently allowed in Class L.
82-P-24	<u>VEHICLE ACCESS - SITE SPECIFIC</u> Reopen two vehicle corridors within the Imperial Sand Dunes: 1) a 50 foot wide corridor along the northern edge of HWY 78 westward from the town of Glamis to the proximity of the high dunes; 2) a corridor northward along the west edge of the high dunes from HWY 78 to the Mammoth Wash Area. (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	The reasons and conditions which were stated to have necessitated the closures have not been demonstrated. Re-opening needed for public access to the wilderness area and the Mammoth Wash Area.	The closure was the result of extensive public discussion. District Manager and MUAC agreed not to consider at this time.
82-P-35	Ivanpah Dry Lake - reclassify as "open" to motorized vehicle use. (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	The lake was closed to motorized vehicle use to provide for other, nonmotorized uses. Location of area insures that the lake bed receives relatively little usage of any kind. A more appropriate management concept would be to leave the lake bed open to all users.	Low priority at this time.

TABLE D-3
Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-37	Devil's Playground Dunes - change from "closed" to "open." (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	The Bureau has shown no compelling reason for the closure of the dunes to motorized vehicle use.	Low priority at this time.
82-P-48	Re-create the Cadiz Open Area. Change from L to I. (Vance Blair)	This area has historically been a vehicle open area. The BLM has consistently maintained this use did not degrade the potential for wilderness, as it was nominated for consideration as a WSA. The area is presently bordered by a BLM designated/currently used race corridor. It is obvious that the only management prescription for this area which is feasible is Class I.	Low priority at this time.
82-P-49	Orocopia Foothills - Amend Plan to change classifications of a portion of that area within the Orocopia Mts/foothills from classes L and M to I - non-competitive. (Vance Blair)	Historically, this has been the use for this area. The BLM, by its nomination of a part of this area as preliminary recommended wilderness, has maintained that no documentable damage to the area has occurred from this use. Within the area there is some mining, past and present. Experience indicates no conflict with wildlife including Bighorn Sheep, nor is there a problem with damage to vegetation. There are only two water sources within the boundaries - one man-made and one natural.	No vehicle use problems in this area at present. Very low priority at this time.
82-P-18	AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN Establish a new ACEC, the Chemehuevi Valley ACEC, in two townships in prime desert tortoise habitat. (Frank Hoover, Desert Tortoise Council)	An ACEC or Natural Area was originally proposed by the Desert Plan Staff for protection of eastern desert lowland ecosystems, for protection of a representative desert tortoise habitat, and for protection of the Chemehuevi Wash, a smoke tree-paloverde wash type. The ACEC and other protective measures were apparently dropped when much of the region was placed in Class L. Recent changes, including the Parker SCORE 400 race course, new mining claims, a new grazing allotment, and pending oil and gas leases make an aggressive ecosystems management necessary in this area.	Low priority at this time.

TABLE D-3
Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-30	Delete Eureka Valley Dunes ACEC (#3). (Vance Blair)	Area is a unique recreational resource. Area could benefit Inyo County economy.	General public has supported ACEC designation for this area.
82-P-52	Establish a cultural/historical ACEC at grave of Willie Boy. (Vance Blair)	To tell story of Willie Boy.	Low priority at this time.
82-P-62	CHANGE MULTIPLE-USE CLASS - NON-WILDERNESS Reclassify PU No. 75 from Class M to Class I.	P.U. 75b contains valuable biological resources including a high density tortoise population which should receive the same protection as resources within subunits 75a and 75c. Additionally, placing subunit 75b in Class L would reduce the impacts of recreational vehicles since travel routes would be designated as "approved routes." Routes of travel necessary for grazing management and mineral development could be designated as "approved routes" while other routes that would have a negative impact on wildlife could be closed.	Grazing use of this area was considered in 1981 Amendment #21, enlargement of the Lazy Daisy allotment. Monitoring of effect on wildlife will be conducted.
82-P-13	CHANGE WILDERNESS DESIGNATION Expand the boundary of WSA 281A. (Joyce Burk, Sierra Club)	The expanded boundaries are contiguous with the existing San Geronio Wilderness and its two recommended additions (Raywood Flat A and Fish Creek). The area's primary private land owner is Southern Pacific who has a record of being open to land trades in the adjacent San Bernardino Forest.	The new areas are outside the WSA and would require inventory. New wilderness inventories are not planned at this time.

TABLE D-3

Amendments Dropped

<u>Prelim. Amend. No.</u>	<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Proponent's Reason for Submission</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
82-P-14	<u>Expand boundary of WSA 218. (Joyce Burk, Sierra Club)</u>	The contiguous Southern Pacific lands should be added to the Barstow Resource Area proposal. These sections have all the necessary wilderness attributes such as opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Southern Pacific should certainly be approached to see if they would agree to public acquisition of this land.	Same as 82-P-13
82-P-75	<u>Expand the Class C Boundaries of WSA 117 in Saline Valley. (Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council)</u>	Boundaries of this Class C area were set along elevation lines on a topographic map. As it is difficult to identify such boundaries in the field for enforcement, we recommend that they be moved south and west (see map). Change to Class C should make no change in vehicular access for mineral exploration and burro management for the short term.	Decision was to leave area non-suitable. It contains minerals and geothermal resources. Will be studied during the ACEC process. Wilderness report will address boundaries.
82-P-76	<u>Expand the Class C Boundaries of WSA 122 (Inyo Mountains). (Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council).</u>	We recommend moving the northern boundary north to Lead Canyon. There is no valid reason for excluding this area. It is in excellent natural condition, has no active potential for mineral or energy development, and has outstanding wilderness-oriented recreational opportunities.	Area is highly mineralized.
82-P-77	<u>WSA 348 - Chuckwalla Mtns. Expand the WSA boundary to include those portions of the adjacent bajadas on public land. Retain vehicle access to developed areas through the use of cherry-stems. (Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council)</u>	We recommend expansion of the two separate maintainous areas to include those portions of the adjacent bajadas that are on public land. Retain vehicle access to developed areas through use of cherry stems.	Area was designated non-suitable because of mining claims and low wilderness values. Re-study is unlikely to result in a suitable recommendation.
82-P-78	<u>Change WSA 362 (South Algodones) to Class C. (Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council)</u>	Actual vehicle use of the area is quite low. It does not appear that significant critical energy resources would be lost due to designation. Wilderness recreational values are well recognized; area also possesses unique wildlife and vegetation resources.	Extensive public input was considered in making plan decision. No evidence was provided of changes in general public opinion on this issue.

TABLE D-3
Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
82-P-80	Change WSA 265 (New York Mountains) to Class C. (Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council)	A varied and scenic mountain range, the New York Mtns possess both natural values and recreational opportunities. The WSA was excluded originally due to mineral resource values; the amendment's proposers maintain that although mining for gold and silver occur in the area, none is occurring in the WSA.	This area is highly mineralized. No new information has been provided. Re-study would be unlikely to change recommendation.
82-P-40	<u>EASTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY PLAN</u> Change recommendation of Sawtooth WSA to Non-Suitable. (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	Does not meet wilderness requirements.	Sawtooth WSA has been re-studied. Some boundary adjustments have been proposed. See Amendments 43-46.
82-P-41	Change recommendation of Carrizo Gorge WSA to non-suitable. (Richard Gochnaur, DART)	Does not meet wilderness requirements.	Low priority at this time.

TABLE D-4

Sources of Amendments Accepted for Consideration in 1982

Final Amend. No.	Prelim. Amend. No.	Title	Proponent
1.	82-DO-1	Communication Sites	BLM
2.	82-CSO	Revise MUC Guidelines for G-E-M	BLM
3.	82-DO-2	Revise MV Access Element	BLM; MV user organizations; Sierra Club; Desert Protective Council
4.	82-P-63	Water Quality Guidelines	Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game
5.	82-P-53	Panamint Dunes, Change C to L	Vance Blair; Inyo County
6.	1981 Holdover	Barstow-to-Vegas Race Course	American Motorcyclist Association
7.	82-B-12 82-P-45 82-P-74	Razor Open Area: Alternative A: Expand to west Alternative B: Expand to east Alternative C: Close, Change to Class M	BLM Vance Blair Sierra Club/DPC
8.	82-B-15	Dry Lakes	BLM
9.	82-B- 5	Afton Canyon Allotment Change Range Class	Sierra Club/DPC
10.	82-B-17	Afton Canyon Allotment - expand	BLM
11.	82-B-6	Cronese Lake Allotment	BLM
12.	82-P-84	Enlarge Granite Mtn. Allotment	James A. Parker
13.	82-P-83	Kelso Dunes Grazing Area	James A. Parker
14.		Range Suitability Criteria	Karl Weikel
15.	82-P-61	New ACEC - Big/Little Sand Sprg.	Inyo County; California Dept. of Fish & Game

TABLE D-4

Sources of Amendments Accepted for Consideration in 1982

Final Amend. No.	Prelim. Amend. No.	Title	Proponent
16.	82-B-18	ACEC #36 - Relocate/rename	BLM
17.	82-N-1	Halloran Wash ACEC - Change Boundaries	BLM
18.	82-P-276	East Mojave National Scenic Area - North Boundary	Molycorp, Inc.
19.	82-P-20 82-P-16	Rand Mountains: Alternative A: Change M to I Alternative B: Change M to L	Richard Gochnauer (DART) Desert Tortoise Council
20.	82-P-88	P.U. 32 - Change L to M: Alternative A: Change <u>all</u> L to M Alternative B: Change <u>Heavily</u> Mine Area Only	AMA, District 37 BLM
21.	82-P-89	P.U. 34 - Change L to M: Alternative A: Change <u>all</u> L to M Alternative B: Change <u>heavily</u> Mine Area Only	AMA, District 37 BLM
22.	82-B-8 82-P-90 82-P-36 82-P-51	P.U. 38 - Change L to M: Alternative A: Change Cinnomon Hills From L to M Alternative B: Change <u>all</u> L to M	BLM AMA, District 37; Richard Gochnauer (DART); Vance Blair
23.	82-P-90	P.U. 36 - Change L to M	AMA, District 37
24.	82-B-16	Round Mtn/Grapevine Canyon - Change L to M	BLM
25.	82-I-4	Red Cloud Mine Area - Change L to M	BLM
26.	82-EC-7	Gordon's Well Area, Imperial Dunes - Change L to I	BLM
27.	82-P-60	WSA 117 Change Victor Cons Mine From C to M	Inyo County

TABLE D-4

Sources of Amendments Accepted for Consideration in 1982

Final Amend. No.	Prelim. Amend. No.	Title	Proponent
28.	82-P-59	WSA 150 - Change Shaw Mine Area From C to L	Inyo County
29.	82-P-56	WSA 150 - Change Chicago Valley Area From C to L	Inyo County
30.	82-P-79	WSA 271 - Recommend Woods Mtn. Change From L to C	Sierra Club; Desert Protective Council; Judith Donaghey
31.	82-P-31	WSA 250 - Change Section 35, T. 11N., R 12 E. From C to M	James A. Parker
32.	82-N-6	WSA 250 - Change portions in Northeast and West Aeos from Class C to L	BLM
[33]	82-P-80	WSA 265 - New York Mtn. See Appendix D, Amendments not Considered	Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council
34.	82-B-7	WSA 217 - Change Area East of Rattlesnake Cyn. From C to L	BLM
[35]	82-N-4	WSA 262 - South Provident Mtns. See Appendix D, Amendments not Considered	BLM
36.	82-B-9	WSA 217 - Change Black Mtn Area from L to C	BLM
37.	82-P-77	WSA 218 - Morongo, Change From L to C (Suitable)	BLM; Sierra Club
[38]	82-P-77	WSA 348 - Chuckwalla Mtn. See Appendix D, Amendments not Considered	Sierra Club, DPC
39.	82-P-57	WSA 145 - Change 20 mi. Area North of Baxter and Area North & West of Shadow Mtn From C to L	Inyo County

TABLE D-4

Sources of Amendments Accepted for Consideration in 1982

Final Amend. No.	Prelim. Amend. No.	Title	Proponent
[40]	82-P-78	WSA 362 - Algodones Dunes, See Appendix D	Sierra Club; Desert Protective Council
41.	82-P-54	WSA 157 - Change 45 miles From C to L	Inyo County
42.	82-P-55	WSA 123 - Change From C to L; Designate as an ACEC	Inyo County
		<u>Sawtooth Mountain WSA</u>	
43.	82-EC-3	Change area C from Class C to Class L	BLM
44.	82-EC-2	Delete Cherrystemming; Add Small Section of Cherrystemming	BLM
45.	82-EC-1	Change Area B From Class C to L	BLM, Kelly Hart
46.	82-EC-6	Add Cherrystemming in Potrero Area	BLM
47.	82-P-11	Change Upper Part of Pleasant Canyon From L to M	Margaretha Krucker Richard Gochnauer (DART)
48.	82-P-22	Olancho Area - Change M to I	Richard Gochnauer (DART)
49.	82-P-1	Increase Roadside Camping Area to 300 Ft.	Russell L. Chamberlin, World of World of Rock Hounds; Richard Gochnauer, (DART)
50.	82-P-21	Expand Arroyo Salada Open Area	Richard Gochnauer (DART)
51.		WSA 305 (Sheephole Mtn) - Change to Non-Suitable	BLM
52.	82-P-58	WSA 148 (Greenwater Valley) - Change Part to Non-Suitable	Inyo County
53.	82-DO-4	Designation of Non-enacted Wilderness Areas	BLM

APPENDIX E
MAJOR HABITATS
ALONG
PROPOSED BARSTOW-TO-VEGAS RACE COURSE

Appendix E. Description of Major Habitats along Proposed Racecourse

Habitat	Major Ecological Features	Common Plants	Special Features
Dry Lake	Low areas within enclosed desert drainage basins that are characterized by vegetation-free surfaces of fine-grained highly alkaline soils.	No vascular plants, but numerous microfloral species (algae and fungi).	Sites of mineral wealth; sediments are valuable record of climatic and ecological change during the Quaternary.
Alkali Sink Scrub	Poorly drained soils with extremely high alkalinity and/or salinity. Usually found around dry lake beds.	Inland pickleweed <u>Allenrolfea occidentalis</u> Seepweed <u>Suaeda torreyana</u> var. <u>ramosissima</u>	Similar to Saltbush Scrub, but with plants often more widely spaced and with most species succulent.
Saltbush Scrub	Finely-textured, poorly drained soils of high alkalinity and/or salinity. Typically on margins of dry lake beds.	Four-wing saltbush <u>Atriplex canescens</u> var. <u>canescens</u> Desert saltbush <u>A. polycarpa</u>	Low, grayish, widely-spaced shrubs. Species distribution often shows zonation reflecting soil alkalinity/salinity.
Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub	An open community on well-drained soils of slopes, bajadas, and valleys below 3,000 or 4,000 ft. in this region. Winter temperatures often below freezing, but northern distribution probably limited by winter cold.	Creosote bush <u>Larrea tridentata</u> White bursage <u>Ambrosia dumosa</u> Desert senna <u>Cassia armata</u> Desert thorn <u>Lycium</u> spp.	Rich in annual plant species; the dominant and most widespread habitat type in the California desert.
Shadescale Scrub	On poorly drained flats with heavy, somewhat alkaline soil. Typically between 3,000 and 5,000 ft. elevation.	Shadescale <u>Atriplex confertifolia</u> Winter fat <u>Ceratoides lanatum</u> Spiny hopsage <u>Grayia spinosa</u>	May occur at lower elevation than creosote bush scrub in basins with poor drainage and cold air accumulation. A common association in the Great Basin desert.
Blackbush Scrub	On shallow, rocky, usually calcareous soils of flats and plateau or relatively steep upper bajadas between 3,500 and 6,000 ft.	Blackbush <u>Coleogyne ramosissima</u> Nevada mormon tea <u>Ephedra nevadensis</u> Ground thorn <u>Menodora spinescens</u>	Forms almost pure stands of low monotonous scrub in many areas, but can be quite rich with at least 200 species of plants.
Mixed Desert Scrub	A complex, open scrub on rocky, noncalcareous slopes. Occupies a zone of varying elevational extent, but usually occurs below woodland associations.	Cholla <u>Opuntia</u> spp. Spanish bayonet <u>Yucca</u> spp. Live-forever <u>Dudleya</u> spp. Mormon tea <u>Ephedra</u> spp.	Very rich association with plants displaying most of the varied desert growth forms.
Desert Calicicolous Scrub	On steep, highly erodable limestone and dolomite slopes from 2,800 to 5,000 ft. Well represented in the barren northern region of the Clark Mtns. between Ivanpah and Mesquite Valleys.	Clark Mtn. agave <u>Agave utahensis</u> var. <u>nevadensis</u> Barrel cactus <u>Ferocactus acanthodes</u> Pungent brickellbush <u>Brickellia arguta</u>	Lacks unifying indicator species, but has a mixture of species that is distinct from those of neighboring communities.
Mojavean Pinyon-Juniper Woodland	Forms a low, usually open coniferous woodland from 5,000 to 8,000 ft. elevation. Typically found on dry, rocky, well-drained soils of upper slopes in higher mountain ranges.	Single-leaved pinyon <u>Pinus monophylla</u> Utah juniper <u>Juniperus osteosperma</u> Mountain-mahogany <u>Cercocarpus inticatus</u>	Often forms broad ecotones with Joshua Tree Woodland and Creosote Bush Scrub.

Habitat	Major Ecological Features	Common Plants	Special Features
Joshua Tree Woodland	An open woodland typically found on gravelly, well-drained alluvial slopes from 2,500 to 5,000 ft.	Joshua tree <u>Yucca brevifolia</u> var. <u>jaegeriana</u> Mojave yucca <u>Y. schidigera</u> Goldenhead <u>Acamptopappus</u> <u>shockleyi</u>	Climatological and biological transition between low and high desert regions.
Desert Dry Wash Woodland	An open woodland confined to gravelly watercourses or alluvial fans, which carry water at the surface only infrequently.	Desert willow <u>Chilopsis linearis</u> Smoke tree <u>Dalea spinosa</u> Honey mesquite <u>Prosopis juliflora</u>	Occasionally monotypic with only one arboreal species; provides excellent wildlife habitat.
Desert Wash Scrub	Occurs in sandy bottoms of wide canyons, in incised arroyos across upper bajadas, and in shallow, abraded, sandy washes across lower bajadas, all usually below 5,000 ft.	Cheesebush <u>Hymenoclea salsola</u> Cat claw <u>Acacia greggii</u> Wooly bursage <u>Ambrosia eriocentra</u>	Primarily a low, shrubby community; may be monotypic or may contain a large number of shrubby species with no true dominant.

APPENDIX F
CULTURAL RESOURCES

APPENDIX F
CULTURAL RESOURCES

AMENDMENTS ONE, TWO, AND THREE

The full range of site types or Native American sacred areas could potentially be present.

AMENDMENT FIVE

There are 66 recorded archaeological sites within or immediately adjacent to the proposed to be changed from closed to open. These sites run the gamut of site types found on the California desert, including rock alignments and cairns, stone tools and projectile points, shelters, grinding stones, pottery, stone bowls, and temporary camps marked by hearths, rock circles, and artifact scatters. A number of highly diagnostic projectile points have been recorded here, including Lake Mojave/Silver Lake, Elko-eared, Amargosa, and Pinto points. Many of the tools found here are highly patinated and extremely weathered, conditions which may indicate great age. Stylistically, many of the tool types are considered to be of very early origin as well. Rock alignments and cairns are known to have considerable special significance to living Native Americans. It is also near a Panamint/Shoshone pinion collection area still in use today. This entire complex of sites is in association with a Pleistocene lakebed, and geoenvironmental conditions in the area make it an ideal location for paleocological and paleoclimatic studies. Such Pleistocene lacustrine site complexes are among the most important archaeological manifestations on the California desert in terms of yielding information on past environmental conditions and human adaptation to changing environments. These lacustrine site complexes can yield types of information available from no other source. Dr. Emma Lou Davis has maintained an on-going research interest in this area for more than two decades which has resulted in a steadily growing body of data (Davis, 1969). Although much still remains to be accomplished here.

The area exhibits an unusually high site density and complexity for the California desert. Based on existing records, a site density of 15 sites per square mile has been predicted (Coombs:1978). This indicates a potential for many as yet undiscovered archaeological sites. The scientific value of the area is extremely high.

Based on previously known data and Desert Plan inventory data, the eastern 75 percent of the areas was rated in the Desert Plan as having very high sensitivity and the western 25 percent as having high sensitivity.

Mr. Davis' research proposal was submitted by California BLM to Washington earlier this year for funding consideration.

AMENDMENT SEVEN

The vicinity of the Razor Open Area contains a number of archaeological sites. It also borders a cultural resource area of Critical Environmental Concern, the Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC.

The current open area does not contain a large number of recorded archaeological sites. Eight transects surveyed by the Desert Plan Staff within or adjacent to the open area resulted in only three recorded archaeological sites. However, the southern tip of the open area borders the Crucero ACEC where over 50 archaeological sites have been recorded. These sites include temporary camps, ground figures, petroglyph sites, milling stations, lithic scatters, and pottery. One site within the ACEC consists of a number of rock cairns. This type of archaeological phenomenon is known to contain extremely sensitive Native American sociocultural values as well as scientific values. This site is also the focus of a current California State University research project.

The area of the proposed Alternative A expansion contains several recorded archaeological sites, including a turquoise quarry with petroglyphs, trails, and stone tools. Petroglyphs are considered objects of magico-religious value by many Native Americans. According to some theories, petroglyphs were created by religious leaders called shamans. This area also borders the Mesquite Hills/ Crucero ACEC.

The area of the proposed Alternative C expansion contains the most dense array of cultural sites. There are approximately 35 recorded archaeological sites and probably a number of others that have not yet been located and recorded. These sites include temporary campsites, projectile points, stone and bone tools, shell beads, pottery, and milling stones.

The Mojave Trail, or Old Government Road, also passes through the proposed expansion areas. The road runs into Fort Soda from the east and leaves Fort Soda in a southwesterly direction. The route follows very old Indian trails. It was used by early Spanish and Anglo traders and explorers and later, with the establishment of a series of military posts, because a major military route (Warren and Roske 1981; Casebier 1974). The Mojave Road is currently the focus of a cooperative effort at historic restoration between BLM and a volunteer organization called Friends of the Mojave Road. The road is being cleared along it's entire route for 4-wheel-drive vehicle passage and is clearly marked by a system of rock cairns.

The predicted site density for the area is three sites per square mile (Coombs 1978b). The site density within the ACEC is higher. The Mesquite Hills/ Crucero ACEC is rated by the Desert Plan as an area of very high sensitivity. The Alternative C expansion is rated as high sensitivity. The rest of the area is not rated, which indicates that the sensitivity for cultural resources is low/unknown.

AMENDMENT EIGHT

Soda Dry Lake

The entire shoreline of Soda Dry Lake is rated as having high sensitivity for cultural resources. There are a number of recorded archaeological sites immediately on the shoreline and more just off the shoreline. There may be other unrecorded sites as well.

The Mojave Road crosses Soda Dry Lake (see Amendment 7 discussion).

Soda and Silver Dry Lakes comprise together the bed of Pleistocene Lake Mojave. Some of the very early archaeological research on the California desert was focused on Lake Mojave, and this research was instrumental in demonstrating the importance of the study of pleistocene lake environments in understanding changing climate and human history in the California Desert. For this reason, the Mojave Basin is important to the history of archaeology on the California desert.

Silver Dry Lake

There are approximately a dozen recorded archaeological sites around the shores of Silver Dry Lake. Approximately 50 percent of the shoreline is rated as having very high sensitivity (Most of the west side) and 50 percent as having high sensitivity (the east side and a small portion of the west side). Silver Dry Lake is a part of Pleistocene Lake Mojave and shares its importance.

Coyote Dry Lake

There are only a few recorded sites at Coyote Dry Lake. There may be other unknown sites. The entire lakeshore is rated as a high-sensitivity area for cultural resources due to the importance of pleistocene lake environments to desert archaeology.

Superior Dry Lake

Superior Dry Lake has few recorded archaeological materials. A small portion (20 percent) of the south side of the lake is rated a high-sensitivity area. The rest is not rated which indicates low or unknown sensitivity. In this case, it is probably low.

Harper Dry Lake

Although there are few recorded materials here, there is potential for unrecorded materials. About 60 percent of the shoreline is rated as having high sensitivity. The remaining 40 percent is low/unknown.

AMENDMENT NINE

There are approximately 30 to 40 recorded archaeological sites within the boundaries of the Afton Canyon grazing allotment Coombs (1978b), based upon statistical analysis of known data, predicted a site density for this area of three sites per square mile on valley bottoms and 4.2 sites per square mile in mountain areas. There are probably many more archaeological sites than have been recorded.

Nearly all the site types common to the California desert are represented. One prehistoric village site exists within the Afton Canyon ACEC. With the exception of the village site, which does contain subsurface materials, most of the recorded sites are primarily surface manifestations.

Approximately 20 percent of the allotment is rated as having very high sensitivity for cultural resources. Another 30 percent is rated as having high sensitivity for cultural resources.

AMENDMENT TEN

There are approximately 20 to 30 recorded archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed expansion of the Afton Canyon allotment. Coombs (1978b), based upon statistical analysis of known data, predicted a site density for this area of three sites per square mile on valley bottoms and 4.2 sites per square mile in mountain areas. There are probably many more archaeological sites here than have been recorded. The Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC, which contains extremely sensitive archaeological and Native American values, is located on the northeast border of the proposed expansion. One rock cairn site here holds sacred Native American values.

Nearly all the site types common to the California desert are represented within the proposed expansion. One prehistoric village site exists within the Afton Canyon ACEC. With the exception of the village site, which has subsurface deposits, most of the recorded sites are primarily surface manifestations.

Approximately five percent of the proposed expansion contains areas rated as having very high sensitivity for cultural resources. Approximately 20 percent of the proposed expansion has high sensitivity for cultural values.

AMENDMENT ELEVEN

There are approximately 65 recorded archaeological sites within the Cronese Lake grazing allotment. Most of them are clustered around and near the shoreline of Cronese Lake. The entire shore of both East and West Cronese Lakes has very high site density. This area has recently been the focus of a major archaeological research project (Drover 1981). The complex of sites located

around Cronese Lake is extremely important to the archaeology of the California desert in terms of information yield. For this reason, the area around Cronese Lake was designated an ACEC for significant cultural values.

There are also a number of Shoshone and Chemehuei traditional collection areas which gives the Cronese Lake vicinity added significance to Native Americans.

The Cronese Lake allotment is about 30 percent very high and 30 percent high sensitivity. The other 40 percent is low/unknown. The very high sensitivity areas is the Cronese Lake ACEC.

AMENDMENT TWELVE

Six areas of high or very high sensitivity for cultural resources are present within the proposed grazing allotment extension. At least 71 archaeological sites, both historic and prehistoric, have been recorded within these areas. Two of these sensitivity areas are related as having very high sensitivity. One of these two areas is the Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC (see Amendment #7). Lithic scatters, petroglyphs, rock shelters, rock cairns, and railroad sites have been recorded in abundance throughout the proposed grazing allotment expansion. Rock cairns are known to hold sacred values for Native Americans. The area in question is also a traditional collecting area for the Chemehuevi.

There are probably many more archaeological sites in this area than have been recorded. Estimates run from 3 to 10 sites per square mile (Coombs: 1978) but in certain locations, such as the Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC site, densities are higher.

AMENDMENT THIRTEEN

Affected could be five high sensitivity and one very high sensitivity areas. Most of these sensitivity areas are peripheral. Only one is in the central area of the impact.

This area contains a number of recorded archaeological sites, including rock shelters, petroglyphs, midden and a village site. Native American informants have indicated that many more temporary and permanent camps exist in the vicinity.

Based on existing data, 8 to 10 sites per square mile are predicted (Coombs: 1978). The entire area is a traditional hunting/collecting area for the Chemehuevi, Mojave, Hawiisu, and Serano. Parts of it are still used today for seasonal collection of food and craft resources. Springs may have ritual significance.

AMENDMENT FOURTEEN

The full range of site types or Native American sacred/traditional areas may be present.

AMENDMENT FIFTEEN

The entire area proposed as an ACEC is rated as very high sensitivity for cultural resources. Both prehistoric and historic remains have been recorded, with the historic remains probably of more significance in terms of integrity. Both springs are reported by Native Americans to have ritual associations as healing places and as seasonal collection areas. The site is discussed in Steward (1938).

AMENDMENT SEVENTEEN

The petroglyphs in the vicinity of Halloran Wash and Halloran Spring are among the best preserved and most diverse in the California desert. The Halloran Spring area is rated as having very high sensitivity for cultural resources. Sites reported within this sensitivity polygon include rock rings, hunting blinds, a village, temporary camps, pottery, aboriginal turquoise, mining locations, and historic remains as well as the petroglyphs. The Halloran Spring area is also rated high in terms of Native American concerns. It is a seasonal hunting and collection area, and the spring is believed to have ritual associations.

AMENDMENT EIGHTEEN

A number of significant cultural resources are known. Predicted site densities run up to 10 sites per square mile in some areas.

AMENDMENT NINETEEN

Alternative A

Approximately 10 percent of the area included in this alternative is rated as having high sensitivity for cultural resources. A number of prehistoric and historic sites have been recorded and many more historic materials are known in the area. Site densities of up to five sites per square mile are predicted (Coombs: 1978).

Alternative B

Approximatley 40 percent of the area included in Alternative B is rated as having sensitivity. The same site types and densities are found here as

described under Alternative A. A portion of the northeastern end of the Rand Mountains is of considerable concern to Native Americans since a major trading route runs through here.

AMENDMENT TWENTY

The eastern portion of the area has few recorded archaeological sites. The western portion, however, is one of the richest areas in the California desert in terms of cultural resources. Five areas of high sensitivity comprising approximately five percent of the area of the proposed amendment, are present. There are those areas of very high sensitivity, comprising approximately 20 percent of the area of the proposed amendment. In addition, the Rainbow Basin ACEC, which contains both important cultural resources and unique paleontological resources is located here.

Cultural resources recorded here include temporary campsites, village locations, milling stations, lithics, petroglyphs, and historic mining camps. There are approximately 130 recorded archaeological sites. The heaviest concentration of sites is in the Black Mountain/Opal Mountain area.

Native American values in this area run from moderate to high. The presence of petroglyphs and reported cremations gives the western portion very high sensitivity. Opal Mountain is reported to have ritual associations but of an unspecified nature.

The petroglyphs in Black Canyon have been the focus of a decade of research by Wilson Turner through Earthwatch programs and may be the most thoroughly documented petroglyph sites on the California desert.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-ONE

The Cronese Lake ACEC, which circles the entire Cronese Lake shoreline, has an extremely high site density. Predicted site densities for the area around 3 to 5 sites per square mile. Around Cronese Lake they are much higher. Most of the sites here are temporary camps associated with exploitation of the the Pleistocene lake environment for food resources. There are also a number of traditional Shoshone and Chemehuevi collecting areas which add to the significance of Cronese Lake. Cronese Lake has recently been the focus of a major academic research project (Drover: 1980).

AMENDMENT TWENTY-TWO

Two cultural resource sensitivity polygons fall within the area. One sensitivity polygon, covering approximately 20 percent of the proposal, was rated high sensitivity because of the presence of six springs. Since archaeological sites on the California desert tend to cluster around permanent water sources, there is a very high probability for cultural resources to be present.

The very high sensitivity area includes the Cinnamon Hills and covers about 5 percent of the area of the proposed amendment. Thirteen sites have been recorded here, including shelters, a village site, rock circles, and lithic scatters. The predicted site density for the area is up to 30 sites per square mile.

The area has a high level of socio-cultural concerns as well. It is a traditional Serrano seasonal collecting and hunting area and is criss-crossed by numerous trails.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-THREE

Fifteen percent of the area is rated as having high sensitivity for cultural resources. There are 12 recorded archaeological sites, including petroglyphs, lithic scatters, temporary camps, and rock shelter, and historic mining materials. Native American values are high here. Sidewinder Mountain has mythic associations in Serrano and Cahuilla oral narrative. Fairview Valley is also an area of importance for Native Americans.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-FOUR

Three cultural resource sensitivity areas, one of which is an ACEC, would be affected by this amendment. Together, these three polygons cover most of the area included in the proposed Plan amendment.

The Juniper Flat ACEC which covers the entire west end of the proposed amendment, contains extremely important and unusual cultural resources that are probably of National Register quality. The ACEC contains an extremely high site density and diversity. Site types represented include a village site, temporary camps, several rock shelters, milling stations, and historic sites. The village is rare for the desert in that it contains house pits, grinding area, several large midden areas, burials and rock shelters. Sites of this nature are extremely unusual on the California desert.

Another area to the east of the ACEC, rated as very high sensitivity, contains five sites, one of which is also recorded as a village site. A third high sensitivity area at the eastern end contains two large habitation sites. The large number of springs in this area, as well as the presence of habitation sites, means that there are probably many more archaeological remains here than are currently known.

This area also has a high level of significance for contemporary Native Americans. It is used as a collection area for food and craft materials, and the presence of burials makes it extremely sensitive.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-FIVE

This includes the western end of a very high sensitivity polygon for cultural resources. The major resources include a group of seven recorded historic mining sites. A number of these include standing stone structures. Since there has been so much mining in this area in the past, there are numerous other historic remains that have not been formally recorded.

Socio-cultural values are also very high for the northern portion of the area addressed by the proposed amendment. The Cocomaricopa Trail, a major east-west aboriginal route of travel, probably crossed here. There are also occupation and associated ritual sites in this and adjoining areas.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-SIX

This area includes portions of two areas that have high sensitivity for cultural resources, on its north and west boundaries. Both of these areas contain numerous pot sherd scatters.

AMENDMENT TWENTY-NINE

The eastern side of this area is rated as having very high sensitivity for cultural resources. Based on recorded data, a site density of 32 sites per square mile has been predicted. Site diversity is also high, while site complexity varies from low to moderate to high. Site types represented include a village, temporary camps, rock shelters, lithics, and historic materials. Two very early projectile point types have been reported in the area.

AMENDMENT THIRTY

The Woods Mountain contains one of the finest archaeological complexes in the East Mojave and perhaps in the entire California desert. The Woods Wash area has been nominated by BLM to the National Register of Historic Places. While it is not yet officially listed, it most certainly will be, once the National Register process is complete.

Regional site densities are estimated at 3.7 prehistoric and 0.5 historic sites per square mile (Coombs 1978). In the Woods Mountains area, site densities are probably closer to 10 sites per square mile; 46 sites have been recorded in the area, which gives it a very high sensitivity rating. Site diversity is also high, including over 20 petroglyph locations, pictographs, lithic scatters, temporary camps, a village site, a number of rock shelters with midden, pottery, and milling tools. Over 1500 petroglyphs are known here, making this one of the largest petroglyph concentrations in the East Mojave.

Sociocultural values in the area are high. There are permanent camps and numerous trails in the area which have significance for Native Americans. The area continues to be used seasonally by numerous tribes residing along the Colorado River for the collection of food and craft materials.

AMENDMENT THIRTY-ONE

There are few known cultural resources in the area, none of any special significance.

AMENDMENTS THIRTY-FOUR AND THIRTY-SIX

There are only a few recorded archaeological sites within the proposed amendment, all temporary camps. Petroglyphs have also been recorded in the area.

The area is a traditional Native American deer hunting area and a Serrano food collection area. Native Americans have also reported the existence of major village sites.

AMENDMENT THIRTY-SEVEN

Most of the area is rated as having high sensitivity for cultural resources. A number of temporary camps and milling stations are recorded in the area, and the presence of permanent water makes it highly likely that much more exists.

AMENDMENT THIRTY-NINE

This area contains only a small amount of high sensitivity area. The presence of a large number of springs in the area indicates a very high probability for cultural resources, but most of the area has never been surveyed.

AMENDMENT FORTY-ONE

This area includes all of two very high sensitivity polygons for cultural resources, portions of another two very high sensitivity polygons, and portions of two high sensitivity polygons. The sensitive areas are primarily on the eastern side of the WSA around the canyon mouths and the mountain-fan interfaces. One very high sensitivity area is located in the northwestern portion of the area. Site types represented include village sites, lithic scatters, temporary camps, milling stations, rock rings, rock shelters, pictographs, and a variety of historic sites. Projectile point types indicating considerable time depth have been reported here.

Native American concerns are high because of the presence of village sites.

AMENDMENT FORTY-TWO

This area encompasses one high and two very high cultural resource polygons, comprising approximately 30 percent and 10 percent respectively of the proposed amendment. The number of archaeological sites in the area is quite high. Site types represented include lithic scatters, flaked stone tools, petroglyphs, temporary camps (one with midden), rockshelters, milling stations, hunting blinds, rock rings, and historic arrastras, and stone structures. The large number of springs in the area makes it certain that many more as yet undiscovered archaeological remains are present.

Native American concerns and values in this area are extremely high. The area has been a traditional hunting and collecting area for bighorn sheep, deer, pinyon nuts, flicker, and woodpecker feathers, blue sage for ritual use, and medicinal herbs. Hunter Mountain itself is sacred. The area is still used by the Paiute for pinyon nut collection and a contemporary sweat house is located in the area.

AMENDMENT FORTY-SEVEN

Upper Pleasant Canyon is an area of extremely high sensitivity for cultural resources. The site density is estimated at 0.6 to 4.8 historic sites per square mile and 2.8 to 3.2 prehistoric sites per square mile (Coombs 1978a). There are 14 recorded sites here, including lithic scatters, temporary camps,

milling stations, and a number of historic sites relating to early mining. Some of the mining sites are highly complex, with components representing all aspects of habitation, subsistence, etc. Prehistoric sites represent a wide range of food procurement and processing and tool producing activities. Some of the sites are extremely well preserved, which makes this area rare. Shoshone with ritual associations in certain areas.

AMENDMENT FORTY-EIGHT

Two high and one very high sensitivity polygons for cultural resources are present. The recorded sites here consist of lithic scatters, quarries, temporary camps, and rock shelters. Site densities are estimated eight sites per square mile.

Native American values are high. The area is a seasonal collection area and rock art and village sites are reported.

AMENDMENT FORTY-NINE

The full range of site types could be located within 300 feet of roads.

AMENDMENT FIFTY

The east and northeast portion of this proposal is rated as having high sensitivity for cultural resources, due primarily to the presence of the Pleistocene Lake Cahuilla shoreline. Nearly 20 sites are known in the area and most of it has not been inventoried for cultural resources. Site types include lithic scatters, potsherds, temporary camps, and a village site that is considered unique in terms of cultural content. The Lake Cahuilla shoreline is of extreme importance to the understanding of the prehistory of the California desert.

Native American values are high due to the presence of the village site. This area was also a seasonal collection area for Kani.

AMENDMENT FIFTY-ONE

There are no known significant or highly sensitive cultural resources here. There is potential for such near the old shoreline of Cadiz Lake.

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